

The "Stampede" From Weaver

—The Victory of Kirkwood

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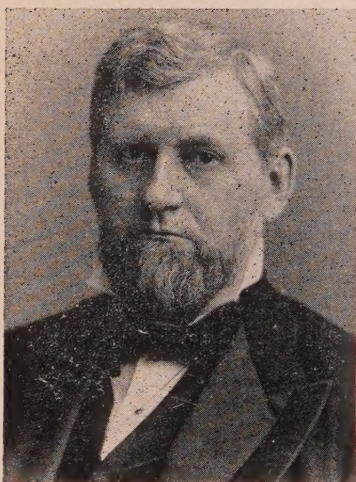
CLAUDE R. COOK, Curator

EMORY H. ENGLISH, Editor Associate

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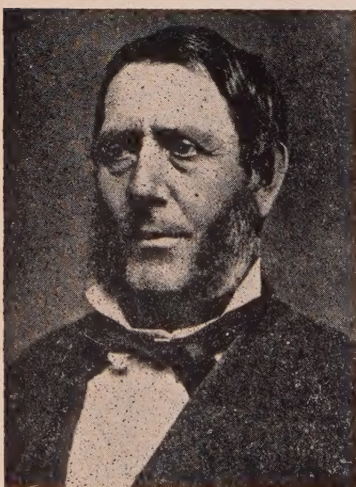
Four Giants of Iowa Political History



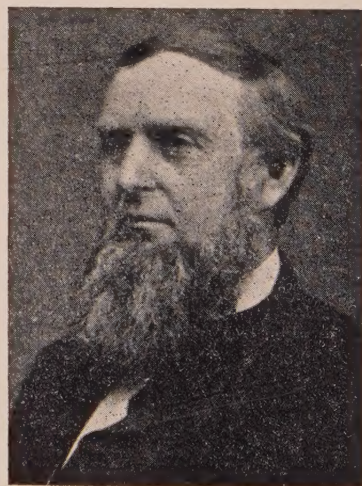
Sen. William B. Allison



Gen. James B. Weaver



Sen. Samuel J. Kirkwood



Sen. James Harlan

Portraits of Period From 1875 to 1880

Annals of Iowa

ESTABLISHED 1863

VOL. XXXI, No. 7 DES MOINES, JANUARY, 1953

THIRD SERIES

WEAVER IN ALLISON'S WAY

Senator William B. Allison's Interest in the Election of
Samuel Jordan Kirkwood as Governor in 1875
and United States Senator in 1876

By LELAND L. SAGE¹

One of the truly dramatic events in the history of Iowa politics was the rejection of General James B. Weaver as the gubernatorial nominee and the "stampede" to ex-Governor, ex-Senator Samuel Jordan Kirkwood by the Republican state convention of 1875, held in Des Moines on June 30 and July 1. As the story is assembled from various published sources,² a reader with the least bit of historical imagination pictures for himself a convocation of the politically great and near great Republicans of Iowa, in bearded or mustachioed splendor, met for the purpose of formally nominating for governor the man to whom a majority were already pledged, the man who was their knight in shin-

¹ This article is based upon a portion of a manuscript in preparation on the life of Senator William Boyd Allison (1829-1908). The author is Professor of History at Iowa State Teachers College, Cedar Falls.

² Brief versions of the story may be found in Edgar Rubey Harlan, *A Narrative History of the People of Iowa* (5 vols., Chicago and New York, 1931), II, 82-87; Johnson Brigham, *Iowa, Its History and Its Foremost Citizens* (3 vols., Chicago, 1915), I, 336-337; Benjamin F. Gue, *History of Iowa* (4 vols., New York, 1903), III, 72-73; Dan Elbert Clark, *Samuel Jordan Kirkwood* (Iowa City, 1917), 328-335; Fred Emory Haynes, *James Baird Weaver* (Iowa City, 1919), 74-80; Cyrenus Cole, *Iowa Through the Years* (Iowa City, 1940), 344-345. Weaver gives his own account in a letter published in the *Des Moines Register and Leader*, October 30, 1911, p. 4.

ing armor, the favorite of the Prohibition forces and the harbinger of the "common man" element in Iowa politics by virtue of his role of opponent of the "heartless corporations"! Then something goes wrong with the majority's plans. A venerable, white-bearded giant, six feet four inches in height, of stentorian voice, suddenly and paternalistically announces the name of a great hero against whom no one can prevail; the delegates are swept off their feet and "stampeded" into the camp of the hero, who all the while does not want the nomination and accepts it with the poorest grace and only after pressure is applied by telegrams and by messengers who had dashed to his home on a chartered engine. (Not even in a caboose!) The defeated candidate then deserts his former comrades and organizes a new host.

Actually this is not altogether a parody of the things that did happen which were visible to the innocent bystanders who might have been present at the convention and therefore felt themselves to be creditable witnesses and *ipso facto* "authorities" on the story of the convention. It is a not much exaggerated paraphrase of the fragments handed down as serious history to Iowa readers. Yet, it is far from being a *complete* account of the story of Weaver's defeat and Kirkwood's victory, and it well illustrates the superficiality of the eye-witnesses' account of an event which had so many hidden factors behind it. The complete and truly definitive account never can and never will be written because there were too many people involved in the action and it will never be possible to gather testimony from all of them as to what they had done, heard, or seen. Fortunately, there are certain historical participants whose testimony, now available, can be used as a check on that which has already been published and as the basis of a much more realistic account of the reasons why Kirkwood was chosen and Weaver was rejected, and some of the consequences thereof.

CLARKSON AS HISTORIAN

It is the intention of the present writer to review the story in the light of information some of which was not available to previous writers herein referred to, with special attention to the version given by James S. ("Ret") Clarkson, once the famed editor of the *Des Moines Iowa State Register* and later an Eastern business man. This account which has been so generally accepted appeared in the *ANNALS OF IOWA* in 1913, as adapted from correspondence with the editor.³ It well illustrates the time-honored rule of evidence that an old man's unchecked and unverified reminiscences are not completely reliable.

At the time of its writing Mr. Clarkson was seventy years old and living in retirement on his farm near Tarrytown, New York, full of beautiful memories and sentiments about certain Hoosiers of his beloved native state and not untroubled memories of his relations with certain Hawkeyes of his adopted state. For years he had promised himself and others that he would sort out his papers and write a history of Iowa politics, a biography of the Clarkson family, essays on various subjects.⁴ Be it said, with great emphasis, no one was better qualified from the vantage point of brains, experiences, political insight, and forceful and captivating literary style. Such works carried through at nearer the prime of his life and adequately checked by a competent research assistant would have been a tremendous contribution to Iowa historiography. Unfortunately he did not take the time to write when at his prime and in this fashion; instead it was his wont to sit down and dash off from the top of his memory

³ James S. Clarkson, "The Stampede from General Weaver in the Republican Convention of 1875," *ANNALS OF IOWA* (Third Series), 10:561-569 (January, 1913). The editor of the *ANNALS* at this time was Mr. Charles Aldrich.

⁴ Clarkson, "The Stampede . . .", 562-3. A portion of the Clarkson Papers are on deposit in the Iowa State Department of History and Archives (Des Moines) and some in the Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. These papers are replete with references to these intentions towards authorship.

an article for the *Iowa State Register* on some person whose name appealed to him at the moment. The marvel is that these essays were so well done and as free from error as they were. After he retired from his post as Surveyor of the Port of New York in 1908, his health declined and more and more he lived in his memories of the past and became increasingly sentimental about them.

Furthermore, in 1912, Mr. Clarkson was writing as a strong Progressive Republican. A little known fact about him is that his career contained a complete metamorphosis from Radical Republicanism through a period of adoration of James G. Blaine over to enthusiasm for Theodore Roosevelt's "New Nationalism" and finally to Woodrow Wilson's "New Freedom." As he says in the letter in question, he approves "the great popular movement to resist the tendency to make our Republic a government of money, by money, for money, and not of men, which is now nation-wide, and so valiantly led by Roosevelt and other gallant spirits following on these higher paths where Weaver led"; he believed that Weaver was a forerunner of this movement by his policy of "fighting the Republican party, because of its growing tendency no longer to keep human rights and human interests above all property rights and property interests."⁵ It seems to be a warranted conclusion that Mr. Clarkson would never have written this article about Weaver had he not become a warm supporter of Progressive Republicanism.

Granted that General Weaver came into the convention as the strongest candidate, why was there an opposition to him? The key to the understanding of the anti-Weaver feelings of 1875 is to be found in an analysis of the factionalism within the Republican party in Iowa. Part of this factionalism was purely personal, a straightout struggle for power. One aspiring group was led by General Grenville M. Dodge, James F. Wilson, of Fairfield, William B. Allison, Samuel J. Kirkwood and James S. Clarkson. The other group

⁵ Clarkson, "The Stampede . . .", 567-8.

was led by James Harlan backed up by George D. Perkins of the *Sioux City Journal*, Frank Hatton of the *Mount Pleasant Journal*, Dr. Charles Beardsley of the *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, and General James B. Weaver of Bloomfield. This alone would have sufficed to account for an opposition to Weaver. But there was another black mark against him in the Dodge-Wilson-Allison book. Weaver had accepted appointment to office by President Andrew Johnson and such consorting with the Conservatives was not tolerated during Reconstruction days by the fierce Radicalism of the Dodge-led faction. (The Harlan faction was also Radical but accepted Weaver's support in spite of this.) In addition, Weaver had taken a stand as an unrelenting Prohibitionist, and Prohibition was the great divider of Iowa Republicanism in the post-Civil war era.⁶ Still one more count against him as a possible Republican nominee was his sympathy for the anti-monopoly idea. Forthright man that he was, he never learned the art of straddling on these issues.

The open fight between "Dodge and Co." and "Harlan and Co." began in 1866, when Harlan resigned under pressure from Johnson's cabinet and sought return to the United States Senate. His victory over Kirkwood proved to be decidedly Pyrrhic. In 1870 the Harlan-backed Judge George G. Wright beat Dodge's Allison for the senate, but in 1872 Dodge gambled on Allison against no less than Harlan himself and won. From that date until his death in 1899, Mr. Harlan was never allowed to hold another elective office and Harlan supporters found it tough business to overcome the taint of Harlanism without complete surrender and transfer to the camp of "Dodge and Co." Yet, Weaver was a Harlan man in the 1872 contest and his manager in 1876!⁷ The real explanation of Weaver's repudiation

⁶ Haynes, *Weaver*, 68-69, 74-76; Dan Elbert Clark, "The History of Liquor Legislation in Iowa 1861-1878," *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, 6:339-374.

⁷ James Baird Weaver, "Two Iowa Men of Power and Their Contemporaries," *The World Review* (Chicago), November 30, 1901, pp. 351-354.

in 1875 is, therefore, not to be found in the sudden bit of drama contained in the "stampede" to Kirkwood. Rather is it to be sought in the larger story of state politics beginning long before that June day and not ending until many years had passed.

After his election as senator, Allison quickly, easily, and naturally took over the direction of the Dodge political machine. Dodge's business affairs took him all over the country and to Europe; the machine now became an Allison-James F. Wilson-Kirkwood organization to which Dodge could give prestige, advice, and financial support. The natural aspiration of this machine would be to secure the other senate seat for one of its members. The next senatorial election would come off in January, 1876. This would make it advisable to win the governor's office in 1875, for all the obvious reasons and especially for reason of its power to influence the legislature's election of a senator.

ALLISON GROUP WOOS KIRKWOOD

An accident of history almost deprived Mr. Kirkwood of involvement in these affairs of 1875. As long as the other senate seat was held by Judge George G. Wright it was useless to scheme for its capture, and as yet he had shown no signs of an inclination to retire. Consequently, it would seem that Allison was sincere when he (with the help of Congressman James Wilson of Tama) secured an appointment for Kirkwood as minister to Turkey, and tried hard to persuade him to accept the post. An exchange of letters and telegrams was capped with this persuasive appeal:⁸

Your letter just rec'd. Salary \$7500. The duties must be very light from the fact that we have very little business with Turkey. . . . If we should be beaten in '76, the term would not be long & you would have a most interesting and delightful voyage, as I know from the fact that I went as far on the road as Vienna & was

⁸ Allison to Kirkwood, January 8, 1875. The Correspondence of Samuel Jordan Kirkwood, Iowa State Department of History and Archives (Des Moines), Box IV, hereinafter cited as Kirkwood Correspondence. Allison was in Europe in 1873 on his honeymoon.

sorry I could not go down the Danube through Hungary, etc. [*sic*] . . .

Mr. Kirkwood rejected the opportunity — just why cannot be vouchsafed from the documents. We can assume by inference that he did not want to leave his bank and other business interests to which he was devoted, especially in a time of such financial difficulties; and that he wanted to stay closer to the scene of political opportunity. It was only a few days later that he received this letter from Senator Wright:⁹

. . . [*re* Louisiana and Arkansas questions . . .]

I am tired. Want to get home. Sick of this life. Don't you want my place? Come & take it. As I now feel, & believe I shall, you or any other man can have it two years from now, for all . . . [*illegible*]

Thus narrowly had Kirkwood escaped being "kicked upstairs" to a pleasant but unimportant post in the foreign service and consequent unavailability for the race for Judge Wright's seat.

As the days went by, it became necessary for Allison's friends to make some decision as to the race for governor. Allison could not afford to be indifferent about such an important office. Again it was to Kirkwood that they turned. As early as April 16, Jacob Rich, publisher of the *Dubuque Times*, and rapidly becoming Allison's manager and mentor, wrote a strong letter to the war governor urging him to run because he was the man who could assure the party of success in carrying the legislative ticket, so necessary in winning the senate seat that would be up in the following January. Mr. Rich went on to assure Kirkwood that winning the governorship would not remove him from the list of possible senatorial candidates. On the contrary, it would enhance his chances. In his opinion George W. McCrary, the brilliant representative from the First District, would be the second best man for the party to put up for governor, but he could not be

⁹ Wright to Kirkwood, February 14, 1875. Kirkwood Correspondence, Box IV.

spared from Congress. A few days later, M. C. Woodruff, the able editor of the *Dubuque Times*, wrote to Kirkwood using the same reasoning in even more forceful style. Rich repeated the arguments some ten days later.¹⁰ Thus we have the revelation that a group of politicians *no less important than members of Allison's own circle* had decided that Kirkwood should be their candidate for governor for whom victory could be taken for granted; if later he wanted to try for the senatorial honor in the election to be held in the very month of his inauguration, that would seem quite all right. "One thing at a time" seemed to be their motto; *control must be maintained at any cost.*

There were several names ready to go before the Republican state convention on June 30, but only one prospect, General Weaver, had worked hard at lining up delegates. It was generally conceded that a majority of the delegates were pledged to him. The other candidates for governor, John Russell, W. B. Fairfield, John H. Gear, and Robert Smyth had spotty local support only. The modern reader must remember that this Weaver of 1875 was a pre-Greenbacker, pre-Populist Weaver. He was a gentleman of high standing, of excellent war record and long service to the party before and after the war, a commanding speaker, and had a magnetic personality as well. If the professional politicians should use their power to defeat him, their instrument in such dealings must be a man of impeccable character and outstanding merit and popularity. Such a man was Samuel Jordan Kirkwood, but his code of honor would not permit him to run for an office whose term he knew he would not complete if later he could win the office that he really wanted, namely, the senatorship.

KIRKWOOD WINS — OR WAS IT ALLISON?

The strategy indicated under these circumstances was that of delaying the nomination until Kirkwood's con-

¹⁰ Rich to Kirkwood, April 16, 1875; Woodruff to Kirkwood, April 21, 1875; Rich to Kirkwood, April 30, 1875. *Ibid.*

sent could be gained for the use of his name. Telegrams to Iowa City did not produce the desired result. In desperation the pro-Kirkwood men resorted to a scheme that clearly deserves the label of "strong arm." At a critical moment in the proceedings, after the available candidates had been placed in nomination, and just when it appeared that the success of General Weaver was inevitable, "by preconcerted agreement among some of the leaders," the voice of the gigantic Dr. S. M. Ballard of Audubon county roared out the name of the old war governor. Now General M. M. Trumbull, a delegate from Allison's county, came to the front of the stage and asked the leading question, "By what authority do you give his name?" Dr. Ballard answered, "By the authority of the people of the State of Iowa."¹¹

This magnificent piece of effrontery has usually been described as the act of a grand old man of the party whose venerableness gave him the right to ride roughshod over the will of the delegates and the voters who had instructed them. This view is not upheld by the evidence contained in the innocent-sounding clause in Benjamin F. Gue's account. In view of the other evidence adduced here, this clause takes on sharp meaning and great significance. It was, he said: "by preconcerted agreement among some of the leaders." Gue was a careful historian of the scholarly editor-politician type, whose authority and insight were frequently derived from participation in the events he described, as was the case here. Furthermore, there is evidence, cited below, that the move by Dr. Ballard was not spontaneous and sincere but a strategic device carefully planned by the pro-Kirkwood group. As to Dr. Ballard, he was not a patriarch of unquestionable reputation. In 1851 he had given up his combination career of physician and publisher at Iowa City to become a large-scale landowner and farmer in Audubon

¹¹ Gue, *History of Iowa*, III, 72. Clarkson, p. 566, errs in naming the spokesman "Ballou". This was the name of a leading Allison man from Dubuque.

County, in which capacity he acquired a most unsavory local fame.¹²

The convention was thrown into an uproar by this bit of drama; some of the candidates tried to withdraw, but a vote was taken and Kirkwood formally nominated. There was some embarrassment due to his well-known attitude of stubborn opposition to his nomination. At some time in these proceedings an engine was secured from the Rock Island railroad and Jacob Rich and Joseph Morgan, the latter now beginning his long service to Allison as private secretary, made the trip of some one hundred miles to Iowa City to work their personal persuasions on the reluctant nominee. Apparently they were successful, as a grudging and half-hearted assent was sent by telegram.¹³

CARPENTER'S VIEW

Perhaps it was not all so dramatic as we have been led to believe. The comment of Governor Cyrus C. Carpenter is instructive. In his diary he made the following unemotional entry:¹⁴

Arrived at home [Des Moines] this a.m. at 4 o. c. Slept until six. Was in the office during the a.m. and in the p.m. went over to the convention. It was largely attended. After the organization, and nominations were declared in order, Gov. Kirkwood was put in nomination and received the endorsement of the Convention. I do not know how this will work but am disposed to think it a mistake. Time will show, however, but I believe

¹² See fn. 15; on Ballard see H. F. Andrews, ed., *History of Audubon County* (Indianapolis, 1915), 70-71, 100-111.

¹³ The Kirkwood Correspondence, Box IV, contains telegrams and letters pertaining to this episode. Cole, *Iowa Through the Years*, 344, asserts that only Rich and Morgan made the trip. Jacob Swisher, "A Convention Stampeded," *The Palimpsest*, 9:349-356 (October, 1928), includes the name of Senator Allison. In a letter to the author, November 5, 1951, Dr. Swisher agrees that it is doubtful if the senator went along. There is no mention of this topic in the Allison Papers, Iowa State Department of History and Archives (Des Moines) and no reference in the Kirkwood Correspondence to the presence of Allison.

¹⁴ Carpenter Diary, Carpenter Papers, State Historical Society of Iowa, (Iowa City). These papers were used through the kindness of Miss Mildred Throne, whose biography of Cyrus C. Carpenter is in progress.

it would have been better to have nominated one of the [avowed?] candidates.

Thus was the day saved for the Old Guard, but at what a price! The simple truth is that the Allison people were using the governorship to hold off the Harlan people in the senatorial election of January, 1876. The correctness of this analysis is borne out by the letters to Allison and to Kirkwood and James S. Clarkson in the following months. We do not have to wait for and depend solely upon Clarkson's incomplete explanation of many years later. Clarkson says merely that "history took its inexorable way, and Kirkwood was elected Governor, then United States senator . . ."

The first letter is from R. S. Finkbine, a prominent merchant and politician of the day. Writing the very next day he explains to Kirkwood how the nomination came about. Very astutely he played on Kirkwood's prejudices by first asserting that D. N. Cooley [a prominent lawyer, Methodist layman, and anti-Allison man of Dubuque] was leading a movement of some preachers and temperance men to put Weaver to the front. Something had to be done to head this off and so his [Kirkwood's] friends held a conference. Other candidates were being nominated by *counties*, hence the decision to have Dr. Ballard nominate him in the name of the *state* of Iowa. Finkbine then explains the many telegrams that were sent and ends forcefully: "Had that answer not come [acceptance] you would have had a delegation of at least 100 there this morning . . . Now do not buck the inevitable. Get some one else to take care of your little bank. . . ."¹⁵

A few days later Al Swalm of the *Fort Dodge Messenger* wrote to Allison on other business and closed with this report: ". . . The numerous Harlan people here are not well pleased with Kirkwood's nomination,

¹⁵ Finkbine to Kirkwood, July 1, 1875. Kirkwood Correspondence, Box IV.

now that they have news from old Mr. Ditsworthy's pard himself." The same writer, one of Iowa's most effective politicians, wrote a long letter to James S. Clarkson later, reporting on a conversation with Allison about the forthcoming senatorial contest. ". . . He has some fears of the Harlan combination, for it means his death . . ." ¹⁶

More impressive is the letter from J. Fred Meyers, the bitter anti-Harlan editor of the *Denison Review*. The letter reveals much of the inner workings of politics. Writing to Kirkwood, he says: ¹⁷

In reply to your note of the 25th, I would state that my first choice [for senator] is Gen'l. W. W. Belknap and my second yourself. Should the General not develop sufficient strength, or should there be danger that Mr. Harlan or some second-class man like Price ¹⁸ be elected, I should prefer you as a first choice. I was an eye witness, as one of the Secretaries of the late State Convention, to the scenes which attended your nomination. Nothing could have prevented the success of the Adams-Weaver combination except the bringing forward of your name. With Weaver, as he himself proved it during the evening session, in his foolish and intemperate speeches, we would have lost a number of counties which we saved by your nomination. ¹⁹ . . .

KIRKWOOD'S OWN STATEMENT

The most convincing evidence comes from Kirkwood himself. This old Roman could not be deceived by anyone, and his matter-of-fact statements come like sledge-hammer blows. Shrewd politician that he was, he was worried over the possibility that the governorship might be used to knock him out of the coveted

¹⁶ Swalm to Allison, July 20, 1875, Allison Papers, Box 25; Swalm to Clarkson, October 28, 1875, Clarkson Papers, Division of Manuscripts, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), Box 2, File U.

¹⁷ J. Fred Meyers to Kirkwood, October 28, 1875. Kirkwood Correspondence, Box IV.

¹⁸ See Benjamin F. Gue, "The Public Services of Hiram Price," *ANNALS OF IOWA* (Third Series), 1:585-602 (January, 1895).

¹⁹ Haynes, *Weaver*, 80-81, describes the evening session debates on Prohibition, but makes no reference to "foolish and intemperate speeches" by Weaver.

senatorship. Writing to James S. Clarkson early in November, he asserts the very things that constitute the thesis of this article.²⁰

I notice in your paper articles from some two or three other papers in the State, opposing my election to the U.S. Senate for the reason that I have been elected to the office of governor. I also learn from letters to me that Mr. Price is using the same argument against me.

Now you know (perhaps better than I do) how I came to be nominated for Governor — you know as well as I do that I did not seek that nomination, on the contrary that I did all I could to avoid it and only accepted it when it was in a manner forced upon me. You know also that the controlling reason for nominating me was the fear that if someone else were nominated such nomination might result in the loss of the General Assembly and the consequent loss of the Senatorship. Well, the nomination was made and accepted — I made as good a canvass as I could and we have the General Assembly by an overwhelming majority and the Senatorship is secure to our party. Under these circumstances, is it fair that my name must be ruled out as a candidate for the Senatorship because I did the very thing that many of our most clear-headed men deemed absolutely essential to prevent the loss of that office to our party [?].

My object in writing you is to request that you at your own time and in your own way will say just what you think touching the matter . . . I do not seek to commit you to my support, although I should be glad to have your aid if you should think the giving it the proper thing to do. But you can without at all committing yourself or your paper say your say as to the fairness and justice of the attempt to rule me out for the reason assigned.

The information I get in regard to the Senatorship shows that the matter is very much "mixed." I think Price has more positive strength than either Belknap or Harlan. I think I have more positive strength than Price. I am still "seeking information" and am getting a raw deal of various kinds. After a while I will be prepared to determine what I shall do. I will be glad to hear from you touching the mention [*sic*] of this letter.

Inasmuch as published letters from the very able

²⁰ Kirkwood to Clarkson, November 6, 1875. Clarkson Papers, Library of Congress (Washington, D.C.), Box 5.

and very worthy George W. McCrary are so scarce, and inasmuch as he was a potent force in the campaign for the senatorship, it is of some value to publish herewith his own direct comment on the politics involved in this race. Written on the stationery of his law firm of McCrary, Hagerman & McCrary, it was directed to his friend Clarkson of the *Register*.²¹

Keokuk, Iowa, Nov. 19th, 1875

Dear Clarkson,

I regret very much that my engagements were such when you were here that I could not get a chance to have a talk with you. I then expected to be in Des Moines in a few days on professional business, but the case in which I am engaged took a turn which rendered the trip unnecessary. I had a desire to have a frank talk with you on the senatorial question, as I want you to understand exactly my position. I am not such a fool as to pretend that I don't want to be senator, or that I should be indifferent to the honor, if I were elected to that place. At the same time I am not so crazy about it as some others. The candidacy of Gen. Belknap is of course somewhat embarrassing inasmuch as it compels me to choose between comparative inactivity and a personal contest with him. I choose the former. I do not do so, however, because I think that I or the Republican party, owe it to Gen. B. to make him Senator, not because I think him the fittest or purest man for the place, but for two main reasons only. 1. I am averse to making a personal fight with anybody for any office. 2. A fight between two candidates both from here would of course defeat both.

Under these circumstances I have considered the question whether I should withdraw entirely. I have submitted this question to my friends here, who say no. They insist that the Republicans are a unit for me in this Co. and that the General is only their second choice at least. Meantime a number of friends throughout the State and some members of the legislature have declared for me without solicitation & voluntarily. I have therefore made up my mind to let it be known that I would gratefully accept the place, but that I will personally solicit no votes; that I will make no war upon any other candidate; that I will make no combinations,

²¹ McCrary to Clarkson, November 19, 1875. *Ibid.*

bargains or pledges, and spend no money to secure it. In a word, that I will take the seat if I take it [at] all, untrammelled, and discharge its duties to the very best of my ability. Judging from the usual course of these matters my chance is slim, but still, I believe that if a few influential and earnest men were to go in for me I might be elected. The time has come in Iowa politics when the most anxious and active candidates are not the most likely to succeed. I think the *Register* could at the proper time turn the tide in my favor, but of course I know that I have no right to ask such a favor, nor to complain if you should maintain an attitude of indifference or espouse the cause of another. I have written but few letters on this subject & of course desire that you will regard this as *strictly confidential*.

Very truly yours,

Geo. W. McCrary

P.S. I have read the evidence in the Kasson case. I am amazed that there was no attempt to rebut your evidence. The inference to be drawn from Mr. K's failure to go on the witness stand and deny the charges must be most damaging.

GWM.

HARLAN'S ACTIVITY

To return to the senate race, we next find a fascinating example of the attitude and technique of former Senator Harlan. Writing to Allison he says:²²

It is possible that my name may be used in connection with the election of your next colleague. I am curious to know whether your friends understand that one feature of the warfare likely to be made against me, in that event, would weigh as heavily against you, should they desire your re-election; such as the "Credit Mobilier" nonsense, getting "vastly wealthy" in the public service. And do they understand the sourness of some of my personal friends caused four years ago, could probably be cured now?²³

Should you see proper to write me, I need hardly say, I will not abuse the confidence.

It might be hoped that Allison did not see proper to

²² Harlan to Allison, November 23, 1875. Allison Papers, Box 224.

²³ Harlan is referring to charges that had come up in previous campaigns. In the Allison-Harlan fight for the senate in 1872 each man had "thrown the book" at his opponent.

answer this effort at political blackmail. The letter shows if nothing else, how eager Harlan was for the post and the lengths to which he was willing to go. There is in the Allison Papers a draft copy of a letter to Mr. Harlan which could have been the basis for Allison's reply.²⁴ It is a fine example of Allison's non-committal style. He writes to say that he hopes the campaign is being conducted in good spirits; he hopes no friend of his will say anything unkind, and if so, it will be wholly unsanctioned. He further says that he is taking no part and wishes to welcome as a friendly associate anyone elected by the people of the state of Iowa. This of course has to be taken as an exercise in the privilege of diplomatic deceit for political purposes. Probably Mr. Harlan was not at all fooled by such evasive language.

On December 2, the *Fort Dodge Messenger*, edited by that very eccentric figure, Al Swalm, carried an editorial boosting General Belknap for senator, also pro-Belknap reprints from the *Spirit Lake Beacon* and the *Algona Upper Des Moines*. On December 6, Swalm wrote to Allison on business matters and added this item: ". . . I shall come out for Gen. B. for your colleague this week . . ." True to his statement, the issue of December 9 carried a long editorial article strongly in favor of Belknap. After the usual praise of the favorite's character and ability and an assertion that his conduct of the affairs of the War Department had been very successful and beyond faultfinding or censure, the editorial continued:

In addition, he was a brave soldier and all other things being equal, we are for the soldiers for the offices. At the present time and since 1860 Iowa has chosen *no* soldiers as senators and only a few soldiers as representatives — Capt. Orr and Capt. Walden, General Dodge, Capt. Donnan, Captain Sampson and Col. Ainsworth. The 70,000 or so ex-soldiers ought to combine and get at

²⁴ Draft copy of letter, Allison to Harlan, December 16, 1875. Allison Papers, Box 223.

least one soldier senator, especially now that there are 80 ex-rebels in Congress.²⁵

Harlan left no stone unturned; on December 13 he wrote one of his artful letters of inquiry to Governor Carpenter. If Carpenter were not to be in the race for himself, then Harlan hoped that he would not interfere with the work of those who thought that he (Harlan) should be elected. The honest governor recorded in his diary for that day: ". . . I received a letter from Mr. Harlan today which shows him to be on the war path." He answered the importunate candidate by saying that he must remain silent as between the candidates; nevertheless, he was very grateful to Mr. Harlan for help rendered at Washington when he went there on behalf of the poor settlers in the Des Moines River Lands; at that time no other member of the Iowa delegation showed any interest, therefore his regard for him was what it had always been.²⁶

AL SWALM'S FRANK ANALYSIS

Real down-to-earth political appraisals now came from the pen of Al Swalm when writing to his fellow-townsmen and comrade-in-arms, Governor Carpenter:²⁷

You doubtless have seen ere this the demagogic article in the [Dubuque] *Times* on matters Senatorial. You have seen that we have made our choice from the real and pronounced candidates — and that we take Belknap in ours for a steady diet. [The *Messenger* held off from support for anyone until Carpenter made it clear he would not run.] Among the politicians and railway men you are not popular for reasons manifest to you. But among the masses, the farmers and the real workers of the land, you are strong, and to rouse and reach them one must commence early. The others are marshalled by a telegram — these must be slowly pounded into action . . .

I don't want any Kirkwood in mine. I remember his

²⁵ This is a view that causes one to examine carefully the customary assertion that Civil War veterans had a virtual monopoly on public office.

²⁶ Carpenter to Harlan, December 15, 1875. Carpenter Papers.

²⁷ Swalm to Carpenter, December 14, 1875. *Ibid.*

administration during the War, when some very scaly performances were carried on in the way and manner of army promotions; [he is] of a corrupt nature, all *hog* and supreme selfishness and adherence to his clique. As Governor he will do, but he will never be Senator by my vote. Harlan and Price are excused. McCrary is needed in the House, for the Iowa delegation has not got too big a load of brains as it stands. Beef and bowels seem to predominate. Belknap is a man of good ability, better than either of the others considered naturally, and has the bottom to do some hard and telling work. Then we have never had a soldier in Congress — Senate — and the four we had in the House were quickly kicked out. I take some stock yet in my discharge as a private soldier and would see some creditable comrade "go up higher." But enough. Write me when you can.

Kirkwood was aware of his difficulties, as explained above. On December 14, he wrote to Allison, reminding him of the part played by Rich and Woodruff "contrary to my wishes . . . After the election I found that a very serious obstacle to my success was my election as Gov." He said he did not expect Allison to take a partisan stand for him, but implied that he was under some obligation in view of the actions of Rich and Woodruff. The very next day, whether as an answer or not cannot be said, Rich wrote a letter of assurance to Kirkwood, telling him that H. L. Stout and all the other solid men of Dubuque were urging J. K. Graves, state senator from Dubuque county, to vote for him. "Stout told me tonight again that he would go at him again heavy. You know Stout is the richest man in the State, and a very fine one in every respect, and carries much weight. He is one of Allison's closest friends, also."²⁸

As the very end of the year approached many people were taking final stock of the situation and making their guesses as to the chances of victory of the respective candidates. General Dodge wrote to Allison that the Harlan men were making the most active

²⁸ Kirkwood to Allison, December 14, 1875, Allison Papers, Box 224; Rich to Kirkwood, December 15, 1875, Kirkwood Correspondence, Box IV.

fight, the Belknap forces were quite prominent, the Kirkwood contingent was not very much in evidence. Governor Carpenter noted the strong articles in the *Burlington Hawk-Eye* in favor of Harlan, articles which he called "special pleading," and also noted a call from Colonel Root of Fort Madison "who is out in the interests of Mr. Harlan. He talks confidently, but I doubt whether he feels so." Colonel D. B. Henderson of Dubuque showed a commendable independence of judgment when he wrote to his chieftain, Allison, that McCrary was his first choice — "That is my dead bottom feeling . . . He is my first choice and Belknap 2nd, K. [irkwood] 3rd. I doubt if Mc. can win in the quiet stay away policy. I have little faith in that."²⁹

Again General Dodge wrote, this time to report on a conversation with John Y. Stone, his favorite from Glenwood, Mills county. "I saw Stone here today. He thinks Kirkwood is in the lead. Still Harlan's organ is the best of any in the State . . . [Gear is for Harlan because the B. & M. R.R. is for Harlan *sure* and for Gear] [reports on others.] I tell you that if you want Harlan defeated it is necessary to get an anti-Harlan man for Speaker, for as is always the case with a Speaker, there is no end to the amount of influence he will wield . . ." On December 23, and again on the 30th, Al Swalm came out strongly for Belknap, running one whole page on the 23rd, proclaiming his merits and his deserts as a soldier.

Probably the most valuable letter in the vast series now available is one from Harlan to Carpenter, written from Mount Pleasant on December 25. He is still on Carpenter's trail, trying to secure permission to reprint his letter of the 15th, and he opens his letter by saying: "Soon after writing my note to you, of the 13th inst. I started on a journey to see my poor sick son at Cheyenne, Wyoming, which has caused delay in

²⁹ Henderson to Allison, December 23, 1875, Allison Papers, Box 224. Somewhat earlier, December 7, 1875. Henderson had written to Allison: "If McCrary writes to me what shall I say? He *must* find warmth in the region of your hearth." *Ibid.*

acknowledging the receipt of your kind and generous letter of the 15th, for which I tender you my heartfelt thanks . . ."⁸⁰ The story has been handed down through the sentimental history of Iowa politics ever since 1876 that Harlan was suddenly called away from the Des Moines fight in January, 1876, to go to the bedside of his desperately ill son and that this caused him to "surrender" to Kirkwood's forces. As this letter shows, there was nothing "sudden" about his son's illness. A better guess is that Harlan stayed with the fight as long as there seemed to be a chance of victory and then availed himself of an excuse for withdrawal. On one other occasion Harlan referred to his aspiration to office, but suggested to Allison that an appointment to a foreign post be kept in reserve for use in case of failure. It is quite understandable that Harlan should not want to appear as a "failure" — not after his distinguished career in the senate and cabinet.

1876 — KIRKWOOD WINS AGAIN

After the dawn of the new year there were only a few days to wait until the election for the senatorship. Inasmuch as many of the principals and all of their agents were now in Des Moines in person and a great many things would be handled by word of mouth rather than through written messages, it is impossible to be sure that any account of the pre-election maneuvers can be complete.

Harlan's manager at Des Moines was none other than General James B. Weaver, still among the faithful in spite of the trick played upon him at Des Moines the previous June. At a much later date Weaver wrote a very bitter account of the methods used in this election, likewise in the one of 1872, in which he charged that the idea was to defeat Harlan at any price.⁸¹ But Harlan was not the real threat to Kirkwood's candidacy. That threat came from Belknap and

⁸⁰ Harlan to Carpenter, December 25, 1875. Carpenter Papers.

⁸¹ See footnote 8. Weaver did not leave the party until 1877.

McCrary. It is interesting to speculate as to the strength that might have been commanded by either of these men if he had had the field completely to himself with support from the other. Certainly Keokuk was not large enough to afford two senatorial candidates at one time! General Dodge surveyed the scene on January 1 and concluded that McCrary was growing all the time. "Kirkwood is evidently a strong man, but how much work he is doing it is impossible for me to ascertain."

Captain John A. T. Hull of Bloomfield, a candidate for the post of secretary of the state senate, a keen and vitally interested observer, saw it this way:³²

Savery House, Des Moines
Jany. 6, 1876

My dear Wife,

Things are boiling. Harlan, Kirkwood and Belknap are sanguine with Price holding the bag. I have no opposition yet and all the Senators are very friendly. Am playing the devoted [*sic*] neutral on the Senatorial fight and think I will preserve my position of armed neutrality.

If Harlan or Kirkwood fail of the nomination on the first ballot, Belknap will be nominated. I wish I could see you all tonight and hope you are well.

Allison's fellow-townsmen, Julius K. Graves, sometimes friend, sometimes rival, now in the former position, a state senator well aware of his wealth and influence, wrote from Des Moines that he would support Kirkwood although his own strategy would call for Allison's help for either Belknap or McCrary now, since neither Kirkwood nor Harlan could be expected to be a candidate in 1878, when Allison would be up for his second term, whereas Belknap or McCrary might be. This well illustrates the lack of idealism in the politics of legislative election of the senators. No one seems to have thought of serving the State of

³² J. A. T. Hull to Mrs. Hull, January 6, 1876. Hull Papers, Iowa State Department of History and Archives (Des Moines).

Iowa; the only thing that mattered was keeping the office in the control of a certain group.

At long last, on the night of January 13, the fight came to an end. Its strenuosity is indicated by a message from J. W. Chapman, United States Marshal for Iowa, who reported to Allison: "Rich and Ballou told me they would write particulars. I am played out and must go to bed."

True enough, on the next day Rich sat down and in his best journalistic style wrote for Allison his report from the scene of battle. No faithful lieutenant ever wrote a more complete report. It would be worthy of full reproduction if space allowed. Most valuable of all is his closing observation. In his opinion, the situation for Allison is better now than Allison had had any right to expect. Kirkwood had been elected; Harlan, Belknap and Price have all been squelched. "There is no one to contest with you [in 1878] but George McCrary, and if you can't keep him out of the field, with the certainty of succession four years from the time of your reelection, you are not the man I take you for."³³

James F. Wilson was delighted with the results and asserted his lack of fear of Harlan two years hence. "We will take care of that pig when it gets fat" was his Lincolnesque summary. J. Fred Meyers, the doughty editor of the *Denison Review*, sent Allison a full report in which he complimented Jacob Rich on his management and belabored Al Swalm for his actions. "If Kirkwood can be induced to change his shirt once a week and [learn] the use of pocket handkerchiefs, he will make a respectable Senator, and if he *will* spit upon everything round about him, he is no worse than some of his Senatorial colleagues." F. R. Kirk of Sioux City, a strong pro-Allison man, wrote and urged Allison to begin now to plan for 1878 and expressed

³³ Rich to Allison, January 14, 1876. Allison Papers, Box 226. The sequel is that McCrary went into the Hayes cabinet as Secretary of War, then into the Federal judiciary, and then into the employ of the Santa Fe Railway.

the hope that George D. Perkins, editor of the *Sioux City Journal*, had left the Harlan cause forever. He suggested that Allison ought to do something substantial for Northwest Iowa as a means of strengthening himself in that area.

A short time later Allison received a beautiful letter from his great rival thanking him for the sympathy expressed by Allison and his wife over the death of his son, Willie Harlan. Poor Mr. Harlan little knew of the scorn which was felt for him by the typical Allisonian at this time. How he would have grieved had he been able to see this letter:³⁴

. . . What do you think of the prospect of running two years hence against truthful James. I had hoped that he was packed away safely four years ago for the resurrection — but his indiscreet friends insisted on exhibiting the corpse this winter, and threaten us with an exhibition of the skeleton two years hence. I hope by that time it may cease to be odorous, as I know it will be otherwise harmless — scarcely a scarecrow.

Thus our long story comes to an end. The Allison-Wilson-Kirkwood faction had clinched the possession of both senatorial seats for itself for years to come. Allison succeeded himself term after term and became a national institution. Kirkwood's seat went to his crony, James F. Wilson, for two terms, then to the friendly John H. Gear, then to the man that Allison regarded as a son, Jonathan P. Dolliver. From 1876 to his death in 1908, Allison controlled not one seat but two in the house that many would consider the supreme policy-making body of the United States.

³⁴ R. S. Finkbine to Allison, February 25, 1876. Allison Papers, Box 25.

Securing the Blessings of Liberty

By ORA WILLIAMS

The United States Constitution Ratified:

Delaware, Dec. 7, 1787; Yeas, 30, unanimous.
Pennsylvania, Dec. 12, 1787; Yeas, 46; Nays, 23.
New Jersey, Dec. 18, 1787; Yeas, 38, unanimous.
Georgia, January 2, 1788; Yeas, 26, unanimous.
Connecticut, January 9, 1788; Yeas, 128; Nays, 40.
Massachusetts, February 6, 1788; Yeas, 187; Nays, 168.
Maryland, April 28, 1788; Yeas, 63; Nays, 11.
South Carolina, May 23, 1788; Yeas, 149; Nays, 73.
New Hampshire, June 21, 1788; Yeas, 57; Nays, 47.
Virginia, June 26, 1788; Yeas, 89; Nays, 79.
New York, July 26, 1788; Yeas, 30; Nays, 27.
North Carolina, November 21, 1789; Yeas, 194; Nays, 77.
Rhode Island and Prov. Pl; May 29, 1790; Yeas, 34; Nays, 32.

Admission of New States to the Union:

Vermont, March 4, 1791	Minnesota, May 11, 1858
Kentucky, June 1, 1792	Oregon, Feb. 14, 1859
Tennessee, June 1, 1796	Kansas, Jan. 29, 1861
Ohio, in 1803	West Virginia, June 19, 1863
Louisiana, April 30, 1812	Nevada, Oct. 11, 1864.
Indiana, Dec. 11, 1816	Nebraska, March 1, 1867
Mississippi, Dec. 10, 1817	Colorado, Aug. 1, 1876
Illinois, Dec. 1, 1818	North Dakota, Nov. 2, 1889
Alabama, Dec. 14, 1819	South Dakota, Nov. 2, 1889
Maine, March 15, 1820	Montana, Nov. 8, 1889
Missouri, Aug. 10, 1821	Washington, Nov. 11, 1889
Arkansas, June 15, 1836	Idaho, July 3, 1890
Michigan, Jan. 26, 1837	Wyoming, July 10, 1890
Florida, March 3, 1845	Utah, Jan. 4, 1907
Texas, Dec. 29, 1845	Oklahoma, Nov. 16, 1907
Iowa, Dec. 28, 1846	New Mexico, Jan. 6, 1912
Wisconsin, May 29, 1848	Arizona, Feb. 14, 1912
California, Sept. 9, 1850	

When the 19th century opened, there were 16 states, 8 for slavery and 8 against it.

By the end of 1819, there were 22 states, 11 for and 11 against slavery.

When Iowa sought to be a state in 1844, there were 26 states evenly divided between slave and free.

The bill to admit Iowa also included Florida. Florida accepted and Iowa rejected the proposal.

Before the admission of Iowa came to completion, Texas had also become a state with a pledge that at least four states might be made out of it.

THE CONSTITUTION

The constitution of the greatest free nation ever organized states in the foreword that it was ordained and established for the purpose, among others, to "Secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." This was another way of making it plain that the people of the new world hold it to be self-evident that "all men are created equal" and that among the unalienable rights with which they are endowed are "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

It was eleven years after a congress representing the British colonies in America had declared that "these united Colonies are and of right ought to be free and independent states," and thirteen years before the close of the eighteenth century, when the resolve to "form a more perfect union" was translated into a definite plan of political procedure by which a weak confederation of states would become a powerful nation, capable of growing, expanding and taking part in the affairs of the whole world.

The publication of the Declaration of Independence was an event taking its place alongside the crossing of the Rubicon and the signing of Magna Carta; but fashioning and adopting the Constitution was an event of equal significance and of more serious intent. We will all agree with the praise of one of the greatest statesmen of the nineteenth century, Wm. E. Gladstone, in his famous comparison of the British and the American forms of government. He said:

As the British Constitution is the most subtle organism which has proceeded from the womb and long gestation of progressive history, so the American Constitution is, so far as I can see, the most wonderful work ever struck off at a given time by the brain and purpose of man.

The noble intent of the makers of the Constitution was carried not quite through, for there was tacit denial of the natural equality of all men by recognition of the fact that slavery existed or was legally tolerated in every state, and it required three quarters of a century to really make good on the high idealism of the makers of the great Republic.

When the last of the thirteen former colonies had ratified the Constitution in the summer of 1790, the new Republic being already a going concern, the people of the industrial areas of the country had already begun to realize that free labor was better than slave labor, and the urge toward emancipation was being felt. But in the formative stage of the making of the United States of America there was a general disposition to concede to states and sections the right to go it alone and slavery was to be left untouched. Gradually the slave problem became changed from one in economics to a matter of morals. It was no longer a question of whether slavery was useful, but whether it was right. That catchy phrase about "all men are created equal" could not be brushed aside.

THE SLAVERY ISSUE OBSCURED

In due time, after the new Constitution got to going nicely, somebody checked up the score board and found that of the thirteen states that had been colonies, seven of them had turned thumbs down on slavery. These were the four of New England and the three they than called western. The line-up was:

For Slavery — Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

Against Slavery — Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey.

The division was neither sharp nor entirely clear, for there still lingered in the new industrial states

remnants of the sentiment for slavery. Before the end of the century, three more states had been added to the list, namely, Vermont, Kentucky, Tennessee. That evened it up, and the score showed an 8 to 8 division. These new states were all added under the administrations of Washington and John Adams. Perhaps little thought was given in any case to the bearing on the slavery issue, for that had not yet emerged from the debating clubs into the arena of politics.

Now in that somewhat chaotic era of the confederation of states, notice had been taken of the growing antagonism to the institution of slavery. The king-approved charters of the colonies were often vague as to how far west the land grants went. The colonizers generally supposed that the coastal region alone was fit for habitation. But men with heavy boots and sharp axes had other ideas, and proved that there was a goodly land beyond the mountains, and what they did led to several of the states laying claim to vast areas of land lying between the mountains and the Mississippi river. There was some fussing about who owned these conflicting and sometimes overlapping claims to unsurveyed western lands. Eventually the nation got all the western lands and organized what was called "the Northwest Territory" and at the same time declared that slavery should never prevail in all this vast region.

With the opening of the 19th century, the building of wagon roads over the hills and the making of steamboats, the westward movement made a good start. First tangible result was carving a piece out of the Northwest Territory and organizing the state of Ohio. This was in 1803, just before the acquisition of Louisiana; and quite likely neither the slavery men nor the anti-slavery men gave much thought to keeping an even balance in the United States senate, although there were those who did.

In the next two decades there was added to the United States including Ohio a total of six states, all

of them along the Ohio and Mississippi valleys. These were:

Free States		Slave States	
Ohio	1803	Louisiana	April 30, 1812
Indiana	Dec. 11, 1816	Mississippi	Dec. 10, 1817
Illinois	Dec. 3, 1818	Alabama	Dec. 14, 1819

THE SLAVERY PROBLEM SERIOUS

Again we have the slavery question kept nicely balanced with a total of 22 states, "free" and "slave," but by this time there was general awareness of the seriousness of the slavery problem. The thought of the people had commenced to congeal. Men were taking sides and preparing for fierce contentions. Daniel Webster was serving in the House of Representatives from New Hampshire. Calhoun, Clay, Hayne and others were sharpening their wits. John Quincy Adams was preparing himself to fight the gag rule in congress and make sure that petitions for the abolition of slavery should receive due consideration. Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis were young boys. The American flag with fifteen stripes and fifteen stars had been carried by American fighting men in three wars. The flag of freedom waved all along the great rivers from New Orleans to Canada where Montana commences. Furs from the Columbia basin were in the American market. American pathfinders were mapping routes through the mountain passes leading to the Pacific. The winning of the west was under way. The riflemen defied the politicians.

The time had come for decision. The people of Maine, which had been a part of Massachusetts colony, were ambitious for statehood. To do that would mean two more senators from a free state. The slave senators balked. There must also be a slave state admitted to keep the even balance. Missouri territory had been created when Orleans took the state name of Louisiana. Missouri was a fur factory at St. Louis and a jumping off place at Westport for the Pacific. Some of the senators wanted Missouri as a state at

the same time with Maine but as a slave state. They could keep either or both states out. President James Monroe was perplexed by this culmination of the old controversy about slavery. Maine was admitted and then the fight started for Missouri. In the end there was what was called the "Missouri Compromise." This meant that Missouri was to be a slave state, and the faith of the nation was pledged to the determination that slavery should never exist in any other state north of what is now the south border of Kansas. Probably there was a great deal of hypocrisy and chicanery going on at Washington. Certainly some parties to the bargain never intended it should be kept.

The state of Maine dates from March 15, 1820, and the state of Missouri from August 10, 1821. Now it was 12 and 12.

The men with long rifles and sharp axes were crowding the politicians again, and the demand was made for carving out a fourth state from the Northwest Territory. All right, said the slave owners, but first get another slave state out of the Louisiana purchase. So it was that Arkansas was admitted June 11, 1836, and Michigan came into the family January 26, 1837. Now it was 13 and 13.

The 26 senators from slave states could always defeat any anti-slavery movement by the 26 from free states. Most politicians were satisfied to have a deadlock.

WAS UPPER LOUISIANA VULNERABLE?

Right here is where Iowa comes into the picture. Iowa was just a remnant of the Louisiana real estate deal. No free state had been fashioned in Louisiana. The three already made were all slave states. The big problem faced the men at Washington. What is to become of Upper Louisiana. What about the Oregon country? Would slave labor be found profitable

on the sandy plains? If there are to be new states made, shall they be large and few or small and many? The slave oligarchy had come to realize its insecurity. Abolition fantaicism was on the march. The fruit of the strange bargain in the court of Versailles when the biggest land deal ever concocted was made with the most despotic dictator Europe ever knew, was full to ripeness. The hopes of the Americans who wanted a great nation and the fears of those who planned a little nation had come to grips.

When on March 9, 1803, the Spanish flag was hauled down on the ramparts at St. Louis and the French tricolor was hoisted to remain only a day, when Gen. Wm. H. Harrison took over as governor of Indiana territory, and made Capt. Stoddard military commander of Upper Louisiana, an order was issued to the effect that all laws already in force should continue temporarily. Not until two or three years afterwards was the territory fully organized with Meriweather Lewis as governor. The order of General Harrison extended slavery, at least in an incidental way, over all Louisiana, but under military control. There never was an acre of land north of the Missouri line on which a slave holder could stand at ease.

What about this wilderness called Louisiana? Two presidents are said to have formally recommended that the whole of it from the mouth of the Des Moines to the Yellowstone be set off and be dedicated permanently to the use of the Indians. It was to be for the northern Indian tribes what Oklahoma once was for those of the south. Anyway, they argued, the whole country west of the Mississippi was worthless for white men. It has been stated that Jefferson, when he finally agreed to adding Louisiana to the American domain, declared his belief that settlement of the intervening country east of the big river, would not be very well completed for a thousand years. The view from Monticello was limited. Livingston and Monroe, who really made the real estate bargain with Talley-

arand and Marbois, for Napoleon Bonaparte, knew better than that.¹

Iowa had become a territory when Andrew Jackson was president. In the first election for territorial delegate a polling place was set up at Fort Snelling, and another would have been placed at Pembina, which was thought then to be on the south side of the line. Very soon the agitation commenced for Iowa statehood. The covered wagons were crossing the river on ferry boats by the thousands. The strip of land exacted from Black Hawk was quite attractive. Southern men came up the river from Cairo, but if they brought their slaves these latter were given freedom in Iowa and hired instead of being whipped.

A constitution was hastily drawn up and sent to Washington. All right, they said; but the admission bill must also include Florida with a guarantee that slavery should never be disturbed in that state. So a double-barreled bill became law, and Florida quickly accepted the terms and became a state March 3, 1845. Anyway, the southern voters predominated in Iowa. The main route of emigration was via the Ohio and Mississippi rivers and this brought more southern men than others. Iowa territory was overwhelmingly a Democratic party region. The Whig party was all shot to pieces anyway. It was a time for a second choosing up of sides to meet the big issue of slavery. The era of compromises was passing. The political storm clouds might have been seen hovering over the valley of the Riviere de Moyens more than ten years before anyone suggested a new free state on Jefferson's cheap wilderness.

The rough frontiersman who had been left in a no-man's-land after Missouri statehood, years later secured some semblance of law and order by tying up with Michigan, and later becoming a part of Wisconsin; but

¹ The Louisiana tract was purchased from France for \$15,000,000 by treaty of April 30, 1803, by U.S. Minister Robert Livingston, who only had authority from President Jefferson to negotiate to buy the island of New Orleans and collect a damage claim, the larger transaction later being confirmed by congress.—EDITOR.

that was not enough to satisfy them, and they begged to have a territory of their own. Wisconsin was all right and had a very fine territorial governor, but the capital at the village of Belmont was not satisfactory. There were more folks living in Wisconsin west of the river than east of it. They agreed to put the Wisconsin capital at Madison in anticipation that Iowa would soon be ready to secede. It was agreed, however, that the second Assembly of Wisconsin territory should be held at Burlington. It was so held and it adopted a resolve in favor of organizing Wisconsin's western counties into a new territory. A mass convention held at the same time buttressed this reasonable demand. The counties of Dubuque and Des Moines were filling up rapidly. The petition, or demand, went to Washington and was placed in the hands of the courtly Gen. George W. Jones, delegate from Wisconsin.

SOUGHT TO BLOCK IOWA ORGANIZING

The storm clouds at once burst into a hurricane. The watchdogs of slavery were not asleep. Most influential of the protectors of the sacred institution of the southland was Sen. John C. Calhoun. He looked with disfavor on the extension of free territory in the northwest. He insisted that if a new territory was created of the Iowa district, emigration would soon set in from the east where abolition sentiment was prevalent, and before the South would be aware of it there would be a new state, and a crop of anti-slavery states, in the northwest "with all the direful consequences" that would follow.

A member of congress from South Carolina, a Mr. Shepard, was reported as stating the case quite clearly: "If the territory of Iowa be now established it will soon become a state; and if we now cross the Mississippi . . . the cupidity and enterprise of our people will carry the system still further, and ere long the Rocky mountains will be scaled, and the valley of the Columbia be embraced in our domain. This, then, is the time to pause." The crystal ball at Charleston was

doing a better job of seeing into the future than the one at Monticello. This was the year 1837.

The fateful leap of abolitionism across the big river was accomplished only by strategem in which, of course, a woman played in the role. Delegate Jones was a courtly and handsome man. He was watching the Iowa territory bill with alert anxiety. He feared that if it should come up when the powerful Calhoun was on hand with his oratorical weapons Iowa wouldn't stand much of a chance. He timed when the Iowa bill was to come up. He had a charming lady friend conspiring with him. At an agreed signal she sent a note to Calhoun inviting him to lunch, and the conversation dragged along for some time. When the senator got back to the floor the Iowa bill had been passed and Iowa became a territory with the signature of President Van Buren July 4, 1838.

Although Iowa was settled by men from the South, or the border, there never was any doubt as to where Iowa stood on the slavery question. The first case that came before the courts of the territory involved the rights of a former slave whose Missouri owner sought forcibly to take him back into slavery. He had tried to work out the price of his freedom at the Dubuque lead mines but couldn't make it. When the Missouri man kidnaped him the enraged miners and farmers formed a mob and halted the procedure. The court held that the slave having set foot on Iowa land was thereby made completely free. That was a dozen years before the famous Dred Scott case was turned out just the other way and aroused the indignation of millions.

THEN IOWA SOUGHT STATEHOOD

But a new phase of the old quarrel appeared when Iowa sought statehood. In the constitution framed by a convention dominated by Democrats, most of whom had come from the South, the borders were fixed to include not only nearly all of what is now Iowa, but all that part of Minnesota south of where St. Paul

now is located. The west boundary of the proposed state ran from near Sioux City to near Mankato, thence down the St. Peters and Mississippi rivers to Keokuk. That took in more than a third of that which is now Minnesota. Otherwise the constitution was satisfactory.

To take such a large slice of Louisiana for the new Iowa meant that a policy was being established that would create big states and fewer of them out of the free acres of what was left of Louisiana. Obviously that was the very purpose of the men who devised the borders of the proposed Iowa. There were men in congress who wanted small states and more of them so as to have more free senators to offset the senatorial delegation from slave states. These latter seem to have had much power, for they changed the boundaries, as proposed by the schemers at Iowa City, and shaped up a new state.

Probably none of the state makers at Washington had ever been further west than Rock Island and few of them cared to know what kind of a country it was where the Mesquakies had made their home. So they revised the boundaries and sent back to Iowa a state with the westward boundary commencing near Spirit Lake and running south to Missouri, but also extended further northward almost to Mankato, thence eastward, taking in a part of two southern Minnesota tiers of counties. This would make a state looking somewhat like Indiana with the longest part north and south and rather narrow. Wow, but this job of emasculation hit the Iowa backwoodsmen like a thunderbolt. The governor set an election date and the big-wigs of the dominant party gave out word that it would be best to approve the little state rather than risk not having any state. The Iowa delegate in congress issued a circular letter advising that this was the best that could be done. The Whig minority in the territory resolved unanimously to oppose the little state idea. But they were a minority.

It was evident that in the year 1845 Iowa stood at

the cross roads of decision as to the statehood status not only of one state but of all the states that would be clear to the Pacific ocean. Should the west be carved up into big and awkward states at the behest of the slave holders, or be divided fairly and decently?

Happily there were men of the dominant political party who placed honesty above partisanship. A meeting was held in a law office in Burlington and five or six able and influential members of the Democratic party resolved that they would sacrifice all their political prospects, if they had any, by defeating the "little state" plan of the abolitionists and the "big state" plans of their opponents. They first had to combat the notion that had been spread abroad which indicated that "the Missouri slope" or western one-third of Iowa was entirely worthless.

A committee was sent to the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines where Jean Faribault once bought furs for the Choteau firm in St. Louis. Chiefs Poweshiek and Keokuk had their headquarters there. What kind of country was it to the west? The chiefs told the truth. There were sugar trees in the well watered valleys and beavers and buffalo grew fat. That was enough. The committee of bolters from their party went on foot and horseback among all the settlements along the Black Hawk purchase and turned the votes against accepting the proposed state with its dwarfed boundaries. The vote was close but decisive. The proposal was sent to the voters a second time the same year with the same result. It looked for a time as if Iowa had chosen to remain a territory.

ANOTHER EFFORT SUCCEEDED

The fight was not over. Another convention was convened in the spring of 1846. The constitution was smoothed out a little, but the boundary question was still the stumbling block. The convention marked time and a committee slipped off to Washington. Out of a smoke filled room there came the midnight message that if certain changes were made as to the boun-

dary — in fact embodying precisely the present day boundaries of Iowa — the wise men in Washington would o.k. the plan. Back in Iowa the word was whispered to the leaders of both parties. The new map went back to Washington and was quickly approved.

How was all this done? Who did it? Nobody seems to know now, or very much care. Suffice to say that Gen. Augustus C. Dodge was the territorial delegate from Iowa, and he was a warm friend and almost a protege of Senator Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois, who was head of the committee that handled the congressional end of the controversy.

Iowa became a member of the family of states as of date December 28, 1846.

The fight over slavery which had plagued the American political scene for more than half a century was practically over. The later fuss about the Kansas-Nebraska line and what to do about California were mere anti-climaxes. It is true that Jefferson Davis, at a later time when he was Secretary of War, sought to turn back the tide. He planned to take over California for slavery by establishing the first route westward from Texas and imported from Arabia a ship load of camels to start the caravan crossing the "great American desert." The camels finally starved on the staked plains. It is true, also that for long all the trails westward started from slave territory. But the domination of the political picture by the ugly specter of slavery was disappearing rapidly. Political compromise failed, then secession failed.

There had been haste in getting Florida into the union as one state, whereas there had been a promise, or understanding, or something, that Florida would become two states. But it was Texas that closed the slavery controversy in the time of President Polk. Had Iowa and Florida come in together the balance would have been preserved. But Mr. Polk upset the trend. He annexed Texas and that Republic was made a state in 1845, so that it didn't matter much about Iowa.

There was an agreement or pledge of some kind that Texas would be available for four new slave states instead of one. That put the slave men at ease. Now they were sure that the United States senate would never get away from them. Of course they guessed wrong, but they might keep on guessing. Texas didn't really settle the slavery question for all time.

IOWA SECURED ITS SHARE

So this is Iowa, my homeland, my native soil, where the tall grass and the leafy oaks first invited me to dig my childiish toes into the rich black dirt. Iowa — the first portion of the Louisiana purchase to be converted into a free state; Iowa, where beyond the Mississippi for the first time men of courage created a state with soil dedicated forever to the "securing of the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity;" Iowa, free Iowa, pointing the way westward toward the setting sun as a guide to all who should follow after in the noble winning of the west, that the certain inalienable rights of 1776 covered all men and not just a few men.

The builders of Iowa built well, built better than they knew, built for a time the glories of which they could not even have dreamed. The builders were of strong arms, firm will and loving hearts. Their first log houses were for families and for homes. They that where the acorns were plentiful the corn would grow tall. They followed the buffalo trails to the salt licks and pure spring water gushed forth. They drained the lily ponds and planted trees that gave forth sweet fruit. In their state constitution they envisioned not only the right of "pursuit" of happiness, but of the attainment of happiness; and on that note they and their children made good.

If the men of the Territory of Iowa had not stood firm and unyielding against the sinister forces that had so plagued the first half century of the nation, the whole course of history might have been greatly al-

tered Upper Louisiana was not to be given back to the Indians, was not to be abandoned to the fur traders, was not to be branded as a worthless region. It meant erasing from the map the name "Great American Desert" which was still in the atlas I conned in school days.

What would have been the shape of Minnesota if Mankato, Mendota and Red Wing had been included in the State of Iowa? Who knows? If the western one-third of Iowa had been left to the prairie dogs, what would have happened to Nebraska and all the region beyond? Happily the makers of Iowa succeeded in forming a regular rectangle in which to create 99 counties conforming in reality to the geography of the region; whereas adoption of either the "big state" as planned by the wild slave statesmen or the "little state" as devised by the over-zealous abolitionists would have compelled such a readjustment of the state boundaries for a half dozen states as would have violated all sense of reason.

The architecture of statehood was the work of thinking and far-seeing men. The story of the makers of Iowa has never been told. If it were possible now to reconstruct the details it would be a worth while chapter of American history. Their work was at least almost finished a full century ago, but I personally knew more than one of these state makers. For the most part they came from the crude settlements along the big river — from Keokuk, Montrose, Burlington, Fort Madison, Muscatine, Davenport, LeClaire, Clinton, Dubuque, McGregor, and a few more from the villages in the valleys of the Wapsie, Cedar, Iowa, Skunk and Des Moines rivers. Territorial Iowa was just a strip along the river, a ribbon of riches winding in and out of the big bends noticed by Joliet, and much later by "Diamond Joe" and Mark Twain. It was a good place to breed big men. The clean breezes gave color to the cheeks of lovely women. The sunshine nurtured healthy children.

There were dissenters, reactionaries, obstructionists, in the backwoods and hid away in odd places. When the final struggle came on the slavery issue, with the State of Iowa some fifteen years old, there were loud cries of dissent from dark valleys, but they could not drown the roar of 80,000 feet tramping southward to help in making final and permanent that "all men are created equal" and to make doubly secure "the blessings of liberty." That later story written in blood and tears in no wise dims the luster of the earlier story of heroism at the ballot box.

A BLACKSMITH PIONEER HELPS

There comes to mind just one incident that fairly illustrates the kind of men who made Iowa. At a time when Iowa had known statehood only eight years a call came from somewhere for those who had read the Declaration of Independence to meet and unite for their plain duty. Out in the village county seat of the county in which I was later born, the village blacksmith heard that call. He must have been a man of sturdy character and strong convictions, for he laid the hammer upon his anvil and closed the shop where his farmer friends had shoes fitted to horses and oxen and their plowshares sharpened. He counted out from his earnings a few silver pieces and set out on foot and alone, sitting by the stage driver as he cracked his leather whip, stirring at the warning of the steamboat's whistle, lodging in the cold rooms of country inns, thence to Philadelphia where in 1854 a new political party was organized and a candidate for president named. That candidate, Gen. Fremont, had trudged along the mid-Iowa valleys and possibly had met the blacksmith. So it was that the modest blacksmith from the county seat town of Adel, not yet able to build a court house, the blacksmith James Sherman, took an active part in the formation of the party that six years later was to place in the seat of power Lincoln, the lawyer from a next door state. Mighty indeed must have been the inspiring forces that drove

the Adel blacksmith to journey half across a continent, perhaps with a copy of the "Liberator" in his pocket, to plan the triumph of liberty.

It is well that the fifteenth century sea adventurers failed to find the westward route to the riches of India. The rovers of the next century tried very hard to find a river route to the Pacific, but happily failed. The seventeenth century colonizers became reconciled to the fact that at least the coastal plan of the new continent could be made to serve their physical needs. Then the white wings of the ocean brought ship loads of searchers for freedom and lovers of liberty. No one at Bunker hill, or at Valley Forge, or at Yorktown had ever seen a map showing the possibilities of a nation reaching from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was not easy to find the money to pay for Louisiana. From Black Hawk to Sitting Bull the native tepee dwellers disputed the possession of all west of the Mississippi. The winning of the west commenced when the first log cabins were built on the western shore of the great river. When an Iowa voice was raised in the halls of the United States senate it was settled once and for all that the new world was prepared to "secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity."

Surmounting Public Problems

Sen. A. B. Cummins: There is not a shadow of doubt in my mind respecting the future of our beloved land. There are difficulties before us, but none that intelligence and patriotism cannot surmount. We have grave problems to meet, but none that honesty and courage cannot solve. The Republic shall be in the days to come, as in the days which have passed, the asylum for the oppressed and the lowly of all nations; but it must cease to be the opportunity and refuge for the enemies of mankind, the assassins of liberty, order and law.

First Assembly at Des Moines

By A. S. BAILEY¹

The Seventh General Assembly, the first to meet at the then new capital of Des Moines, which convened January 11, 1858, was undoubtedly the ablest and most important one in the history of the state.² In his "History of Iowa," written in 1902, B. F. Gue says that in many respects it was the most important legislative body that ever convened in Iowa. It developed a group of men who are still regarded as the bright particular stars in our galaxy of distinguished Iowans.³

I know we are apt to think that all the great men lived in some former time and that there are no truly great men and leaders today. This may be true in a measure. In all history extraordinary periods have called forth extraordinary men. Every age brings its own heroes, be they great or small, and every generation produces the men best fitted for that generation. It is of the remarkable men and events of that first legislature in Des Moines that I am to speak, largely from personal recollection. But first, I must give a little previous personal history as a proper background.

It so happened that I was a subordinate clerk in the senate of that general assembly of 1858. I came to Iowa, a boy of 11 years, in mid October, 1846, and in December following the state was admitted into the union. Thus, I had an even start with the state, and have kept pace with it in years, but not in wealth and intellectual progress. With my folks, I landed from

¹ After residing in southeastern Iowa counties many years, particularly in Washington, Iowa, as publisher of the *Washington Press*, A. C. Bailey lived at Lancaster, Schuyler county, Missouri, where he served as mayor for several years. This article was written by him March 16, 1917, and filed in the Manuscript division of the Iowa State Historical Department, at Des Moines.

² Oran Faville, lieutenant governor, was president of the senate and Stephen B. Shelledy, speaker of the house.

³ ANNALS OF IOWA, Vol. XXX, pp. 316-317.

a steamboat at Keokuk and in wagons moved up into Henry county. As we passed up the ridge west of Nauvoo, I saw the white tents of a great body of Mormons on the Iowa side, ready to move westward. The main body had already gone on its exodus through the wilderness to the promised land at Salt Lake, leaving a trail of suffering and death through Iowa. At Pisgah, over 400 men, women, and children were buried in one Mormon cemetery.

I learned the printing trade in Mount Pleasant, beginning in 1851, and stuck to it for 64 years. In 1858, A. R. Wickersham founded the *Washington Press* and Thadeus H. Stanton and I were his assistants. Next year, Stanton and I bought the paper and contributed not a little to the election of Charley Foster as senator. I grew ambitious and asked him to assist me in getting a position in the legislature, which he readily consented to do. And that is how I came to be a senate clerk in that legislature of long ago. Senator Foster entered the army in 1862, attained the rank of major, and was killed or died in Tennessee. Mr. Stanton, my partner, also joined the army as captain of a company, but before getting far into Missouri, was appointed paymaster, and he remained a paymaster all his long life. The last five years of his life, he was Paymaster General of U.S.A. with the rank of brigadier general, and after his retirement, died in Omaha, January 23, 1900. For several years, I have been endeavoring to secure for him his rightful recognition as one of the brave and distinguished sons of Iowa.

STAGE COACH RIDE TO DES MOINES

I rode all the way from Washington to Des Moines in an old-fashioned stagecoach, a vehicle now obsolete, seen only in pictures.⁴ It carried six passengers, three on a seat, facing each other, knees interlocked. The

⁴ A pioneer stagecoach is on exhibit in the Museum at the State Historical building in Des Moines.

"boot" behind carried their baggage. A seventh passenger could ride with the driver, and the place was eagerly sought, because it afforded a better view of the country. At Pella, we stopped at noon to change horses and I strolled up the street, amused and wondering at the wooden shoes and strange garb of the Hollanders, a colony of whom had settled there. They were good and industrious people, just the kind Iowa needed then.

Ioway, as Emerson spoke it, was then as new as a picture just from the hand of the artist. The freshness and flavor of morning pervaded the landscape, and the solitude of untold ages still lingered; the beauty and grandeur of the wild prairies undisturbed. The footprints of the Indians and the buffaloes were still fresh in the soil, while thousands of prairie chickens nested in the tall grass and crooned their mating song to the rising sun. The pioneer who heard the b-o-o-m of the prairie chickens in the early morning could never forget it. Millions of years had passed in which the sun and rain and all the chemistry of nature had been working to fit up this land for the pioneers that should come from New England's rocky coasts and from over the sea; and Iowa, beautiful Iowa, lay waiting in the embrace of the two great rivers of the continent, like a maiden in the arms of her lover — the fairest spot in all the West.

At the time of which I write, the Indians had about all gone from the state. Among the last chiefs to leave northwest Iowa were Inkpaduta, Hole-in-the Day and Si-Don-i-Na-Do-Tah (Two Fingers). The last named was a chief of 500 Sioux warriors and with these braves, he whipped the Pottawattamies, in what are now Webster and Calhoun counties. I am surprised that no town has been named for him in northwest Iowa. He was murdered by a revengeful white man.

I found the new capital filled up with assembly members and visitors. They had traveled as I had done, by stage coach or by private conveyance. The

first railroad, the Rock Island, reached Davenport, February 22, 1854, and was completed to Iowa City January 1, 1856. Des Moines was then far in the backwoods. The city was crude and backwoodsy too, but everybody was pleased with the location and gratified that the capital was at last sure. Five times the capital of the state had been located. First, by Lieut. Albert Lea, who in 1835 had traversed the great unorganized region known as the Michigan Territory, embracing Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Iowa was only a district in that region and Lieutenant Lea found a location for its future capital in a town he called Iowa, on the banks of the Mississippi, ten miles above Muscatine. He it was who gave name to the state.

GRAFT IN NEW CAPITAL SITE

When Iowa territory began to take shape, the capital was at Burlington and then at Iowa City. Later the legislature appointed commissioners to locate the capital as near the center of the state as practicable. They fixed on a wild prairie in Jasper county, where they surveyed a large tract of land into lots and named it Monroe City. They bought all the lots of nearby land, and thought they had feathered their nests. The graft was so obvious that the Fifth General Assembly repudiated Monroe City, and ordered commissioners to re-locate the capital within two miles of the Racoon Fork at the Des Moines river. That stuck. There was some scrapping between the west side and the east side in Des Moines, and an incipient scandal developed, but this was speedily smothered, and now we are all proud of our capital city. To conciliate Iowa City, the state university was located there and the old stone capitol became the nucleus for the building structures comprising the great school of today. Thus was the balance kept even, and it may well be debated whether Iowa City did not put one over on Des Moines when it swapped the capital for the university.

At that date Des Moines did not dream of the beau-

tiful city it is now. There were no street cars, no paving, and only wooden sidewalks. Two broad board walks extended from the Court avenue bridge to the capitol on the hill. Half way up on the north side stood the rather handsome cottage of Stuart Goodrell, and lucky were the members who found lodging there. The little home where I found lodging was soon swept away by improvements and I cannot now pick out the spot where it stood.

Governor Grimes and other prominent members boarded at the Des Moines House, then the swell hotel of the city, although it would not pass for a third-class house in any town in Iowa now. The governor always rose early and came down stairs in his shirt sleeves. A guest from Massachusetts mistook him for the porter and ordered him to bring down his trunk, which the governor did, and when the stranger learned who the "porter" was, he was profuse in his apologies.

Samuel E. Rankin, representative from Washington county, Senator Reiner of Louisa county and I found a boarding place in a small residence at the foot of "Capitol hill." Mr. Rankin was afterwards elected treasurer of state for two terms but left the office in disgrace, a defaulter, and yet, I believe Sam Rankin was as honest a man as ever lived. He was the victim of others. He turned over everything he had, a fine residence in Des Moines and a farm in his home county, made good the deficit and died of a broken heart in Kansas. The amount of his defalcation was \$36,000, and the funds belonged to the Agricultural college, of which institution he had been treasurer for five years without bond, so well did the trustees regard him. He was the first to make known his defalcation in a letter to the governor. In 1854, James D. Eads, superintendent of Public Instruction, stole \$65,150 from the school fund, which the state had to make good. These two are the only defalcations of state officers in our history of 70 years.

SENATE SECRETARY HAD WHISKEY

I had another friend in the senate who aided me in securing the clerkship. This was Alvin Saunders, senator from Henry county. He was a brother-in-law to Senator Harlan, through whose influence he later became the first territorial governor of Nebraska and one of its first U.S. senators. He was a thorough business man and a leader in all measures of a business character. The secretary of the senate was George E. Spencer, a genuine politician, shrewd, talented, and a little sporty. He kept a bottle of whiskey in his desk, but was a good secretary. After the war, he went south and became a carpet-bag senator from Alabama.

The inauguration of Ralph P. Lowe, the first governor of the state elected as a Republican,⁵ and Oran Faville, the first lieutenant governor (previous to that, there was no such office) was a great event. Leading men from all over the state were there, and it called out the beauty and the fashion and the business men of the new capital city. Every foot of space in representatives hall was occupied. The inaugural address of Governor Lowe was expected to foreshadow important changes in state policy and I was prepared to take notes and make a scoop for my paper. But I was crowded against the wall and one of the Des Moines' most beautiful girls was crowded against me and — I cared nothing more about Governor Lowe and his policies. At night came the inaugural ball in the same room and the maze of flying feet, of charming belles and graceful beaux made it the grandest social event in my life, and convinced me that socially, the new capital was equal to its new honors. The square dance or cotillion was in vogue then, and the entire floor was a mass of rhythmic motion. If it were possible to find in Des Moines today, one of the charming girls with whom I danced at that ball, she would be a white-haired matron and perhaps a great-grandmother.

⁵ James W. Grimes was a Whig when elected governor, but led in organizing the Republican party in Iowa.

John Edwards was speaker of the house and W. P. Hepburn chief clerk. Senator Kirkwood was the leader of the senate in debate. He was a very plain man, dark sandy hair and beard, rather homely, wore the commonest clothes and his shirt front often shone with tobacco stains, but never with diamonds. His speech was short, terse, explosive, and with few gestures. Early in the session two days were set apart for the discussion of the slavery question, when senators on both sides had occasion to air their political views, their oratory and their argumentative powers. One day, Spencer had occasion to leave the room and asked me to act as secretary for a few minutes. Senator Kirkwood sent up a resolution but I couldn't read it. His chirography was worse than Greeley's, so I handed it to the presiding officer, but he could not read it and sent it back to the senator for him to read. He studied it in silence for a few moments, then gave it up and amidst the laughter of the senate, he stated the substance of it.

Kirkwood became our beloved war governor and for a short term, U.S. senator. When he was a candidate for governor, he met his opponent, A. C. Dodge, in joint discussions. One of these took place in Washington. Dodge was a fine looking man. He had served fifteen years in congress and was four years Minister to Spain. Dressed in finest broadcloth and topped with a fine silk hat, he was the personification of official dignity and superiority. The Democrats brought him into town with the finest carriage and team of black horses they could procure. The Republicans hitched a yoke of oxen to a hayrack and went out to meet Kirkwood. He was driven around the public square, the driver with his gad and calling in stentorian voice "Gee, Haw," while the candidate bowed to the cheering multitudes on the sidewalks. It was in this debate that Kirkwood in his most emphatic way, declared that he would not obey the fugitive slave law. He would suffer the penalty, but would never become a

slave catcher, nor aid in remanding any human being into slavery. He put the whole force of his eloquence into the declaration and was loudly cheered. The scene was intensely dramatic and thrilling. With his conscience for his sanction, he was defying the government of the United States.

SENATOR GRINNELL ADMIRER

The senator most of my liking was J. B. Grinnell of Poweshiek. He was short and heavy set, with a smiling face and kindly way, the cheery friend of the humblest clerk or doorkeeper. He was a rich man who came from the East to found a college, which he did, thus building for himself a monument that will perpetuate his name through all future history of Iowa. He was afterwards elected to congress and died too soon to serve.

Senator Johnson of Ottumwa was a very large man with a stentorian voice and he always voted "No." That "No" became a static feature of the senate. During the session, one of our consuls in South America came and delivered a lecture in the representatives hall and introduced an Aztec woman he brought with him. She was dressed in her native costume which was very scanty, and sang a wild weird song with dramatic action. J. M. Dixon was then the most popular editor in Iowa. He was local editor of the *State Register*, then under the control of the Mills Bros. Dixon's paragraphs were spiced with humor and originality. Will Porter was the legislative reporter for the Democratic paper and was regarded as a sort of free lance, or free booter, and you had to look out or Porter would get you. Wm. Duane Wilson, a genial old Scot, was secretary of agriculture and had an office in the capitol among large quantities of seeds. He was the victim of all the jokers, but was really a useful man. He was fond of his name and kept it prominently in view. He was an uncle to Pres. Woodrow Wilson, I

am told by Major Fleming, who seems to know everything.

The "Third house" was organized early in the session and its speaker was C. C. Nourse, a handsome and talented young lawyer from Keosauqua. The "Third house" was made up of lobbyists, visiting statesmen, lawyers attending the supreme court, and ambitious politicians. It was mostly given over to fun, but some of the ablest speeches of the winter were made in the "Third house." It was an open forum to all who had ability and courage to express their views and could do it with wit and eloquence.

ASSEMBLY HAD EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS

Let me recount a few of the leading men of the Seventh General Assembly. They were Kirkwood, Saunders, Laughridge, Grinnell, Trimble, Belknap, Wilson and McCrary. Kirkwood was twice governor and also senator. Alvin Saunders was first territorial governor of Nebraska and one of its first U.S. senators. J. B. Grinnell and Wm. Laughridge were elected members of congress. James F. Wilson of Fairfield also became a member of congress and senator. W. W. Belknap was appointed secretary of war, George W. McCrary, secretary of war and federal judge. If I include James W. Grimes and W. P. Hepburn, who were officially a part of this general assembly, I will have a group of men rarely equaled in any subsequent legislature. They are the men most referred to in our history.

James Harlan, probably the ablest and grandest man the state has yet produced, was intimately connected with this period. He was the first Republican elected to congress from Iowa. He was chosen U.S. senator while he was president of the Wesleyan university at Mt. Pleasant. I heard him preach the funeral sermon of a young lady student which was nearly two hours long, and so beautiful and touching that the immense audience thought it too short. And yet, personally he was rather cold and distant, so that young people

rarely got in close touch with him. His wife was a pretty, gay, social butterfly. It was said that the senator chose her to keep the social balance equal. They had one child, a daughter, who became the wife of Robert Lincoln, son of the president. You see, I am somewhat gossipy, but then personality is the charm of history.

James F. Wilson was one of the brainiest men of Iowa. He was in congress during the war period and was the "Plumed Knight" of the house, as Blaine was of the senate, hurling his shining lance at the secession leaders. As a debater, he had no equal there and then. As a member of the house in the Seventh General Assembly he was rather quiet, but when he spoke, it was as a master and often he was called on to straighten out a parliamentary tangle into which the younger members frequently involved the proceedings.

Of W. W. Belknap of Keokuk, I can recall but little, save that he was a large fine-looking man, with classic clean-shaven face. George W. McCrary was the youngest member, being only 22.

SESSION MARKED CHANGES

Another reason for giving pre-eminence to the Seventh General Assembly is that it was the turning point in the history of the state — financially, industrially and politically. It created a wise banking law and the State Bank of Iowa and its branches gave the people a much needed safe and reliable currency. It re-organized and improved the educational system, and established the Iowa State Agricultural college, which is doing so much for the state today. In short, the state was then leaving its youthful condition and entering upon its manhood.

Politically, the change was even more marked. Prior to that date, the territory and state had been in the control of the Democrat party and that party was pro-slavery. Our representatives in congress, Dodge and Jones, had voted against the Wilmot proviso and

in favor of the fugitive slave law. That fact, in the light of Iowa sentiment today, cast a shade on the good name of the state. The slavery question dominated every other issue as it was the only national issue. No bill, however, insignificant in its object, could pass congress without first considering its bearing upon slavery.

The slavery question came near dividing Iowa into two states. Congress fixed the boundaries of the new state by drawing a straight line from the northeast corner of Kossuth county on the north, to the southwest corner of Ringgold county on the south, and adding eleven counties from southeast Minnesota. The people of Iowa would not have it so and twice voted down the proposed constitution with the boundaries thus fixed by congress, and would have remained out of the union several years more, rather than split the state in that way. The object of those dividing the state was this: the South was straining every nerve to increase its power in the national government in order to overcome the growing free-soil sentiment in the North.

A proposition was brought forward to cut Florida in two, thus giving the South more senators and additional representatives. This was offset by the proposed division of Iowa. General Dodge at first opposed it with great vigor, but afterwards favored it, thinking perhaps that the sooner the state was admitted, the sooner he would become one of its senators. Happily there was no necessity for fighting slavery by sacrificing Iowa. "We are indebted for its defeat," says Governor Gue, "to three young Democrats: Enoch W. Eastman, Theo. S. Parvin and Frederick D. Mills, who stumped the state and secured a majority of 995 against division. It was a critical period in Iowa history and the people of the state will never cease to honor the three young men who by their courage and wisdom preserved for all time, its symmetrical pro-

portions." Iowa is just as we want it if we had the choice of fixing its boundary today.

THE ASSEMBLY PERSONNEL

The senate of 1858 was composed of 33 members, compared with 50 in the senate of the present assembly. They were John R. Allen of Lee, Samuel Anderson of Monroe, Gideon S. Bailey of Van Buren, David T. Brigham of Lee, Aaron Brown of Fayette, Henry B. Carter of Clayton, John M. Cathcart of Marion, Lyman Cook of Burlington, George M. Davis of Clinton, W. T. Davis of Polk, Charles Foster of Washington, J. B. Grinnell of Poweshiek, Jeremiah Jenkins of Jackson, John A. Johnson of Wapello, S. J. Kirkwood of Johnson, Wm. Laughridge of Mahaska, George McCoy, M. L. McPherson of Madison, Joseph Mann of Jones, Marius E. Neal of Marion, A. C. Patterson of Muscatine, W. H. Pusey of Council Bluffs, John W. Rankin of Lee, Wm. M. Reed of Jefferson, Samuel Reiner of Louisa, Wm. G. Thompson of Linn, Nicholas J. Rusch of Scott, O. P. Sheraden of Keokuk, Alvin Saunders of Henry, Wm. G. Stewart of Dubuque, John W. Warner of Decatur. Senator Wm. G. Thompson died a few years ago, the last survivor of the senate of 1858.

Senator Rusch was a genial German who made himself popular by his good nature, and the next year was elected lieutenant governor, and beer and wine were exempted from the prohibitory law to placate him and the beer drinking Germans. That was considered good politics. Senator Bailey, a dignified gentleman from Van Buren and an earnest Democrat, read an original poem hitting the peculiarities of many of the senators in a humorous manner. Senator Jairus Neal was a prominent lawyer, but prided himself on his clothes which were of blue jeans, made in his own home and from the wool of his own sheep. I can never forget Jonathan W. Cattell, the Quaker senator from Linn county. In the house was Dennis Mahoney,

editor of the *Dubuque Herald*, who when the war came, was arrested and confined in a Federal prison because of disloyal editorials. He was the only disloyal Irishman I ever heard of. C. C. Carpenter and B. F. Gue were members of the house, who later exercised a lasting influence on the state, the one as governor and the other as lieutenant governor and historian.

The officers of the senate were secretary at \$5 per day; assistant secretary, \$3; enrolling clerk, \$3; engrossing clerk, \$3; sergeant at arms, \$3; door-keeper, \$3; first messenger, \$2.50; second messenger, \$2; and two firemen at \$2 each. All were elected by a strict party vote — 22 Republicans to 11 Democrats. Not a woman in any position in the legislature then, quite in contrast with today, when both houses are full of them and legislation could hardly proceed without the bright-minded and nimble-fingered typewriter girls. J. P. Patrick, one of the messengers of that winter, is still living in Des Moines, and besides myself is the only living representative of the Seventh General Assembly.

The last night of the session was given over to fun and frolic, the hands of the clock being turned back to prevent the departure of the day. In the morning, the floor was snowed deep in paper wads. No doubt, every subsequent legislature has followed this precedent, the members throwing off their dignity and resorting to boyish pranks. Time has obliterated from my memory many things of interest in that faraway legislature, but it can never efface my impression that it was great — great in its men and in its achievements.

Choosing a Place-Name

By AVA JOHNSON

Records seem to show that in the early days frequently there was a good deal of confusion about what name should be given a place. And there's nearly always a good deal of haziness about change of names, why a change was made, and what decided which name was better.

There's one town in the northeastern part of the state that tried hard to change its name. But the old one hung on until the citizens finally gave up the idea of changing it. The name on the water tower is still the fine old Indian name, Quasqueton.

Quasqueton means "Swiftly Running Water." And Quasqueton is what the Indians had called their village, that stood on this very site of the white man's pretty town of the same name. Quasqueton on the Wapsipinicon; it sounds like music.

It was the waters of that river which gave the Indians the name for their village. The current runs very swiftly at this spot, and the Indians had a flair for taking nature into their lives. Naturally their village would become, Quasqueton, — "Swiftly Running Water."

Early white settlers in that region decided that was all very well for the Indians, but they'd rather live in Trenton. Trenton was the official name for quite a while — only almost nobody used it. Finally the citizens of the place got together to find out what name people *would* use.

Some one suggested translating the old Indian name into English and calling their town Rapid City. That seemed like a good idea, so Trenton officially became Rapid City. Only, people kept calling it Quasqueton. There seemed to be something about the mu-

sic of that name that wouldn't "let go." At last the citizens of the town gave it all up and legalized the Indian name. So, Quasqueton on the Wapsipinicon it is to this day.

INDIAN NAMES ARE RETAINED

Several towns in Iowa are still called by their original Indian names, or rather by the names that the Indians first gave the sites. Villisca is one of them, and the name means "Pretty Trees." Ottumwa, Mahaska, Keokuk, Pottawattamie, Maquoketa, Onawa, Cherokee, Wapello, Osceola, Winneshiek, are only a few of the Indian names we've taken over.

Red Oak, like Villisca, was named for the trees that were there. But that was years ago. There's scarcely a red oak left in that vicinity. And yet when the early settlers came, there were so many oaks and they were so beautiful, that no other name seemed appropriate for the new town.

It seems a little strange those red oaks could have been allowed to disappear without replanting them. And still, we did the same way with other things. Where are the wild turkeys that gave the name to Turkey river? And what became of the raccoons along the Raccoon river? There must have been elk at Elk Lake, and Elk Run; and eagles at Eagles Lake and Eagle Grove. And where are the mills along Mill Creek?

Woolstock, up in the same direction as Mill Creek, was named by the Northwestern Railroad. The railroad was heading that way, but before it could come through, huge flocks of sheep that belonged to L. I. Estis of Webster City had to be cleared off the land. So the new town that was set up to serve the company as a railroad junction, was named "Woolstock" to honor those sheep.

Of all the names I've ever found, none can yet outdo the Nishnabotna River, of southwest Iowa. Is

that name Indian? Who knows? But on the other hand, how could it help being?

Have you noticed how often romance went into the name? Nora Springs, the story goes, was named by a young engineer who came out into Iowa in 1857. His job was to survey land and plot new towns for this area. He'd been carrying the thoughts of a pretty girl around in his mind, so, when he found a town he liked he wanted to name it for her.

To be sure, the town had a name; the citizens called it Woodstock. But Woodstock, the young surveyor said, didn't mean anything. If they'd call it Nora Springs, that would always stand for the beautiful girl he loved. The surveyor must have been a nice young man and a good persuader, for the citizens of Woodstock did just that. They changed the name of their town to Nora Springs.

Of course, the engineer and his bride were supposed to come back and make their home there. When he went for her, the girl had changed her mind. The young man couldn't face it, so he moved off to another county. But there stands Nora Springs, a monument to a romantic young man and a changeable girl.

Several towns in Iowa are named for women. Belmond is a combination of one young woman's two names, Belle Du Mond. Mr. and Mrs. Archie Du Mond, her father and mother, were early settlers. When the town site was granted in the year of 1856, there was talk of naming the place Du Mond for the fine early family. But the young people around the town were fond of Du Mond's pretty daughter, "Belle"; and they finally won out with their suggestion to name the place Belmond for her. Geneva is named for the wife of H. C. Cook, one of the pioneers of Franklin county. Frederika in Bremer county honors Frederika Bremer, a Scandinavian novelist.

MUSICAL NAME — BUT IS IT?

Ladora sounds romantic enough to be some wom-

an's name, but it has a better story than that. A committee was finally appointed to find a name for the town because it was going and thriving but had never been named. The citizens had never been able to agree on a name; that was why a committee had to be selected to settle it. But the members of the committee couldn't agree either.

They met in one of the "front parlors" of the town and badgered and harangued and "yes'd" and "no'd" and bickered and argued, but couldn't get any place. In the "back" parlor of this same home, one of the girls was trying to blot out the noise of the committee with some noise of her own. She practiced her vocal lessons by running the scales.

"La-do-re, la-do-re," the young woman kept singing, over and over. Finally one of the men in the parlor pounded the table. "There it is," he shouted, "That's it. Let's call the town 'Ladora.'" And they did. At least that's the story.

Lineville obviously couldn't be named much of anything else. The Missouri-Iowa state line runs right down the middle of Main street. Business houses on the north side of the street pay taxes in Iowa, those on the south, in Missouri.

Correctionville, on the other hand, isn't what you might think from the word at all. In the western part of the state, there was quite a bit of confusion for awhile because of some mistakes that had been made by engineers whose instruments were off plumb. But Correctionville was laid out on the correction line that was finally established by Federal surveyors in 1850. And it took its name from that fact.

FROM A RAILROAD'S NICKNAME

Diagonal, too, refers to a fact; and, like Woolstock, got its name from the railroad. The Great Western was being built diagonally across the state. At one railroad junction a town named Diagonal was to be set up. Nearly two miles away was another town that had first been named Goshen, then later New

Goshen. The settlers must have come from Indiana, it would seem. And they kept on coming. When Diagonal was finally set up on the railroad line, the citizens of New Goshen picked up their houses, stores, church, and hitching posts, and moved over to the vicinity of the new station.

More than one town moved, or just died, when a railroad came through a few miles away. Out west of Ames there was an early town, and a pretty one, called New Philadelphia. Now, it's only a few foundation stones in somebody's pasture. The Northwestern went through a half mile north and slowly everything moved over there. The new place was called Ontario — I've never heard why.

A large sign at the edge of the town of Primghar reads, "The Only Primghar in the World." That's probably right. The men on the committee that had to name that town, stirred together the letters of each member's last name, until they came up with Primghar. If that ever happened any place else in the world, it would be interesting to know about it.

Duncombe and Kenyon Memorials

By FREDERIC LARRABEE

When Mrs. Mary J. Kenyon, wife of Judge William S. Kenyon, passed away February 22, 1939, in her will she left a bequest of \$20,000.00 to be used in the construction of two bronze memorial drinking fountains — one, a memorial to her father, John F. Duncombe, to be placed in the public square in Fort Dodge, and one, a memorial to her husband, Senator William S. Kenyon, to be located near the court house at Fort Dodge in Webster county.

The memorial to John F. Duncombe is a bronze statue about nine feet three inches in height, resting on a base of North Dakota granite. This statue represents Mr. Duncombe as an attorney when he was

practicing law in Fort Dodge during the years 1855 to 1902. Mr. Duncombe was an eminent lawyer and was also prominent in Democratic political affairs in Iowa and the nation. This memorial was designed and made by Leonard Crunelle of Chicago, a well known sculptor of this country, who was commissioned to make many memorials placed in various cities in the United States. Mr. Crunelle was for years associated with the famous sculptor Lorado Taft until the death of Mr. Taft, and after that time carried on the work as sculptor completing the unfinished work of Mr. Taft. Although Mr. Duncombe passed away in 1902, many citizens in Fort Dodge have heard much about him and speak of the good reproduction in bronze.

The memorial to Judge William S. Kenyon is located near the Webster county courthouse in Fort Dodge. This is a bronze bust with massive North Dakota granite setting, representing Judge Kenyon as he appeared in court when he was a judge in the United States circuit court. It is a life-like reproduction of Judge Kenyon, and when the weather is pleasant almost any time of the day a group of friends of the judge can be seen looking at the memorial and telling of the admiration they had for Mr. Kenyon when he was practicing law in Fort Dodge, when he was United States senator, and when he was United States circuit judge.

This memorial was designed and made by Albin Polasek of Chicago, a sculptor of international fame. In many cities in this country and Europe are memorials made by Mr. Polasek.

Smutty Bear Tribe

By O. J. PRUITT

Chief Smutty Bear of the Yankton Sioux was a very old man when seen by Sergeant Haas. Sergeant Haas probably knew more about the chief than history records. After his discharge from the regular army, he bought the land on which Smutty Bear had a village. The old chief had died a few years prior to the purchase of the land. A four-mile long canyon leads north from the Missouri river, known as the Smutty Bear bottoms. At the head of the canyon stands the modest home of the old sergeant. His faithful wife and his two sons still live on the homestead. There is a tool shed on the premises, and in this shed, are many nail kegs filled with stone and flint artifacts. These articles were picked up around the house and barn lot, on the exact spot of the old chief's village.

The writer has visited the place on two occasions. The research work consisted of correspondence with South Dakota State Historian Will G. Robinson; and also correspondence with the city librarian of Yankton. My objective was to learn the truth about the cave said to have been built into the chalkrock bluff immediately west of Yankton.

This cave is about twenty feet in diameter, and the dome is badly smoked from hunters building fires in the cave in recent years. The cave existed when the earliest settlers arrived at Yankton. In early time, a road ran from the head of Broadway to and beyond the cave at the foot of the bluffs. The Missouri river cut the road away, and a new road was built on the table land, and rejoined the old road near the cave. Tons of chalk rock had to be blasted out to cut the road to the level of the cave. This road runs for miles up the river, past the old cement works, the Smutty

Bear canyon, and beyond Galvin Point, where a dam is to be built soon. Smutty Bear and his tribe opposed the whites, destroyed a town, and tried to stop the survey of a road to the fort. The two chiefs, Strike the Ree and Lean Wolf, were not hostile to the whites.

When the outbreak of the Indians threatened, Yankton citizens built a stockade on the site of the present court house, and trained its people in military defense. It is not certain that Smutty Bear was the principal leader of the intended outbreak. None ever happened at Yankton.

Old timers insist the cave was used by the old Yankton Brewery to cool and age beer. Others insist the cave was used by the Smutty Bear tribe to cool and store buffalo meat. Both could be true. To confirm that it was used by Smutty Bear, let us repeat what the old sergeant said.

MURKY JIM'S SACRIFICE

Smutty Bear had one distinguished hunter in the person of Murky Jim. Murky Jim owned an old Springfield rifle of the remodeled type, being remodeled from an old flint-lock. He was also somewhat of a diplomat, being trusted by the old chief to carry messages to other tribes, and to negotiate truces and agreements relative to hunting privileges. These tribes were Omahas and Poncas, and they lived and hunted south of the Missouri river. Old Smutty Bear in the last years of his life, became very cautious about Murky Jim. He did not want to risk the lives of his braves in warfare.

Smutty Bear had always provided meat for his entire tribe, and now the buffalo were growing fewer on the Dakota side of the river. So, he sent Murky Jim south of the Missouri river to secure the privilege to make a fall hunt. The chief of the Poncas received him with a grin. Lamé Dog was a wise chief, and he had heard of the powers of Murky Jim. He immediately offered to induct Jim into his tribe. As an inducement he caused all the squaws, almost in the

nude, to parade before Jim. He could have as many of them as he desired. Murky Jim refused. All he wanted was to get permission to hunt along the river. While the parley was in progress, Lame Dog's men took Jim's rifle. When he continued to refuse the Lame Dog's proposals, he was ordered shot. As a further insult to the Smutty Bear tribe, a travis was made and the corpse sent back across the river, to the Smutty Bear village, with a courier. The courier told his story from a safe distance.

Murky Jim was buried on top of the chalk rock bluff, on the right side of the canyon about fourteen miles west of Yankton. Here, for years afterward, the remainder of the tribe came each year to mourn for the death of Murky Jim. They camped in the woods nearby, and made daily trips to the grave. They helped themselves to roasting ears, stole chickens and pigs and became a general nuisance. The sheriff had to make them move. They now live near Wagoner, South Dakota.

DAKOTA'S JUNIPER TREE

It was on this farm I saw my first Juniper tree. Nearby stood a 150-year-old red cedar tree. A pencil manufacturer had offered a fabulous price for the red cedar. Mrs. Haas said, however, that it would stand so long as she lived. She instructed her sons to see that the tree remained untouched by the ax after her demise. To this edict, Amen.

The writer wishes to apologize for his being partial to what the old sergeant said, and the report of the city librarian. The puzzling question is, how could the Indian build the cave with the primitive implements they had at the close of the nineteenth century? It is evidently not a natural formation, but was made by the hands of man or men. It could well be the work of the Smutty Bear tribe. This brings us to the question, how old was the old chief? He was born in the nineteenth century and near the close. The exact

time or date of his death is not known. But from all accounts he must have been sixty years old or more, when he died, comparing his age with that of other chiefs of his time, Strike the Ree and Lean Wolf.

The Old Stone Church

The affection and veneration for the old stone church in Rock Falls, Iowa, is not unlike that so widely held for the "Little Brown Church in the Vale," near Nashua. The sentiment contained in the following verse from Mrs. Irene Gorkowski in the *Mason City Globe-Gazette*, is rather well reflected:

There's a little vine covered church on the prairie
That has become very dear to my heart
It was built years ago just with limestone,
And the prayers of men, with vision, made it start.

Let me tell you why it's found a place so dear
In my heart forever it shall be.
For the rocks and vines that twine round about it
Have become a symbol of life, dear to me.

The old gray stone walls will always remind me
Of God's strength and sturdy character of love
And the vines which entwine round about it
Are the love enriched round us from above.

The open door on each Sabbath morning
Is like the father with his arms stretched out wide
Welcoming home his own wayward child
To the warmth of love and fellowship inside.

Once inside these walls so majestic
We're transformed to realms above
With the songs, tithe and prayers that we offer
We are tied to the great God of love.

So won't you stop your tasks for a moment
Listen with me to the Lord and Master's plea
"Come unto me, all ye that labor,"
And, "Take up your cross and follow, follow me."

The Political State Convention

The essentially distinctive thing in our government is the political convention. Representative assemblies may be traced to other times, and are to be found in many other lands and among various races. The elective franchise is not peculiarly ours. But the political party convention formulating a platform of principles, and nominating candidates for elective offices has been developed by circumstances and ideas of government distinctly our own. . .

The situation in Iowa differs from that of many states by reason of the fact that neither any one locality, nor any one interest, predominates in strength or influence. Rings and bosses have not, therefore, the means of securing continued supremacy which they find in some of our sister states. There is no one interest or combination of interests which can boldly demand that those who are in politics shall be for it in order to receive its support, or against it and take the consequences. . .

Taken as a whole, the delegates to a state convention quite fully and adequately represent the body of the voters who have been in the habit of supporting that particular party; for they are almost entirely taken from the body of a county convention, delegates to which have been selected by party caucuses in precincts. . . In most cases the interest of the candidate and of the local managers is to have a fairly decent, intelligent and influential body of men as representing the county in the state convention. . .

The party convention system has the weaknesses of popular government. Its result is not always the selection of the very best men, but rather the choosing for office of average men against whom no serious charges can be made. No portion of the machinery of government under any system is perfect, and the convention system is perhaps as little open to just com-

plaint as any of the institutions under which we live. —Judge Emlin McClain in *Midland Monthly*, December, 1898.

Forerunners of Official Register

Nearly everyone conversant with Iowa state officials of the past recalls that William H. Fleming was the private secretary of seven governors, and a well-informed man on Iowa history. But now, few know that he also served as deputy secretary of state under Gen. Ed Wright, who entered upon his duties January 2, 1867.

In Mr. Fleming's "Autobiography of a Private Secretary," *ANNALS OF IOWA*, Vol. XV, p. 11, is related that then for the first time under state authority, information in regard to former state and territorial officers, legislators and judges was assembled and printed officially, such data having previously appeared in a private publication termed a State Almanac and issued in 1860, by Richard Sylvester, at Iowa City, and Theodore Eagal, of Davenport.

Information of this character officially compiled and published for general distribution by the state, first appeared in the state census report, on suggestion of the Census Board, now known as the Executive Council, whose responsibility it was to take the state census until it was discontinued during Gov. Dan W. Turner's administration.

In 1886, Frank D. Jackson, secretary of state, issued the first compilation of the state Official Register, the publication of which has since continued, and now is compiled by the superintendent of printing.

The Functions of Government

Pres. Grover Cleveland: The lessons of paternalism ought to be unlearned and the better lesson taught that, while the people should patriotically and cheerfully support their government, its functions do not include the support of the people.

Iowa People and Events . . .

California Brought Nearer

While the people of the eastern states, who early visualized little in America west of the Mississippi, well understood that communication with California must necessarily be by the way of the isthmus of Panama, the inhabitants of the great mid-west, half way across the continent, truly felt isolated for a long time. The western overland trails were long, rough and dangerous. Only the venturous and the hardy were equal to them, and communication with the Pacific coast desperately slow and uncertain.

It was not until the starting of the Pony Express of the sixties that Iowa and Missouri, as well as other adjacent midwest states, acquired real contact with the Pacific states, particularly California. The gold seekers of '49 reached California largely by the isthmus route, or struggled dangerously over the western plains and through the passes of the Rocky mountains.

More rapid communication west from Iowa came through the means of the Pony Express, the first such rider starting from St. Joseph, Missouri, April 3, 1860, on the first lap of a 1980-mile trip across the continent, as described by the *Missouri Historical Review*, and on the same day, a rider from Sacramento started east.

Thus was begun the short but colorful career of the famed Pony Express. Of course, no telegraph lines or mail facilities traversed the area called "the great American desert" or the continental divide marked by the Rockies. In the leather mail pouch of the Pony Express rider on that first trip were official letters, telegrams, special editions of newspapers, and a telegram from President Buchanan to the governor of California.

At first, horses were changed every twenty-five miles at way-stations along the route, according to the *Re-*

view, but later changes were made every ten miles. The immensity of the undertaking is hardly realized. Riders had two minutes at each station to transfer mail bags to a fresh pony and be off again on their way. Dangers from Indians, robbers, and all the perils of the frontier West tried the courage of the riders, and the exactness of the schedules tested their physical endurance, but the mail went through, and the men each averaged about seventy-five miles of a trip. "Buffalo Bill" Cody was one of the most famous Pony Express riders.

Crossing Kansas and Nebraska, the route was over the Rockies to Salt Lake City and Sacramento. There the mail was put on a fast boat for San Francisco. First announcements of the innovation provoked skepticism as to its success. The first trip westward took about ten days. Important official news was more hurried. The fastest trip made was seven days and seventeen hours, when Lincoln's inaugural address was carried to the west coast.

The enterprise was never a financial success and was operated only about eighteen months, its need being eliminated when the telegraph lines were completed across the continent in October, 1861. Operating expense had included the salaries of eighty riders and the upkeep of 420 horses and 190 relay stations, estimated in total at \$475,000, with mail receipts probably not over \$90,000. But, it was a helpful as well as colorful venture.

Over in Nebraska a project is under way for placing Pony Express markers in the yards of rural schools serving districts crossed by the Pony Express routes. Already this last fall two dedicatory ceremonies were held in Jefferson and Dawson counties, the others will follow.

The Place Far Away

Penoach is a Sac and Fox Indian word meaning "far away," or "the farthest place." This was the name

given the first organized township in Dallas county. On early maps the name appears as designating a place or a postoffice in the county. When a county seat was established by popular acclaim the name was given to the new county seat. But, when the town plat was filed by Benjamin Greene he gave the county seat the name Adell. The name of both town and township afterward was changed to Adel. But Adel township is not as large as was Penoch. Some there were to regret that the name Penoch had not been retained for the county seat. Mr. Greene, when asked about the name, simply said he gave the name in honor of a very beautiful young girl. There were surmises, but no one knew whom he had in mind.

The name Penoch came naturally to a place in Dallas county. In the early days, the Sac and Fox were in the habit of making sundry excursions to different parts of Iowa for maple sugar making. A favorite place was along the Raccoon rivers. There were extensive groves of sugar maples all along the south part of Dallas county. They went to Penoch, that is, to "the place farthest away." That was somewhere in Dallas county. Hence the first settlers called the place that was to be the first town of the county, Penoch, just as they had heard it from the Sac and Fox visitors.

One early spring day a group of the Indians came to the home of Ephraim Williams, who lived a few miles north of where the town of Van Meter is now located. The Indians always came there, for they were well treated, and Mrs. Williams usually gave them bacon rinds and other grease needed for making maple sugar. The grease added to the boiling sap causes it to make sugar rather than hard pieces. Mrs. Williams met the delegation at the gate and talked with them. They knew she had a small iron kettle they much wanted. She gave it to them. Then an Indian rigged out with feathers and beads, brought forth a long string of white and blue beads and wrapped them

around the neck of Ora Williams, then just a child in the arms of his mother. It was their recognition of her gift. They, too, were on the way to Penoch.

Peacetime Patriotism

Gov. A. B. Cummins in an address at dedication of the Iowa soldier's monument at Lookout Mountain, Tennessee, Nov. 19, 1906:

"The faithful follower of Mohammed counts himself especially fortunate if once during his whole life he is permitted to walk the weary way to Mecca, and there kneel before the tomb of the Prophet. He is re-inspired in his faith, reinforced in his strength, as he draws from this fountain of religion his lessons for the future.

"My dear friends, it seems to me that we ought to congratulate ourselves in that we have been permitted to make this pilgrimage to the shrine of the brave Iowa boys who, more than forty years ago, wrought deeds so valorous upon these heights and upon this historic spot. We are here to honor them, but in honoring them we will strengthen ourselves. What they did is written upon the annals of a grateful country; it has been carved into the enduring granite and moulded into the imperishable bronze. Let us resolve that their spirit and their purpose be graven deep upon our hearts as we turn to duties yet before us.

"It was hard to climb these heights in the face of hostile guns. It was hard to preserve courage and fortitude in the midst of the fearful carnage of this assault; but, my friends, peace has its perils as well as war, and I have often thought that it was a little harder to be a patriot in time of peace than it was to be a patriot in time of war.

"This great country demands now the highest type of citizen, just as it demanded forty years and more ago the highest type of soldier, and we ought to consecrate ourselves anew, as we gather to sing the praises

of the boys of 1861. We ought to make deeper and firmer resolutions that we will be as faithful to the things committed to our hands as they were to the things designed for them to do. And in that thought, it seems to me, lies the great value of these dedications. I think, both north and south, we will turn away from this beautiful shaft determined to do better and to live better for the country for which these heroes fought, and for which many of them died."

Graeser Slugged Referee

William L. (Pinky) Bliss, LL.B. 1902, Drake University, now a justice of the Iowa supreme court, was captain of the Drake football "Bulldogs" of 1901, and played a year earlier. This was the period when the game was first played in Des Moines under lights.

Sec Taylor, of the *Des Moines Register*, tells of a game between Drake and Grinnell college, when what looked like a touchdown run by the "Bulldogs" was called back on the last play of the game for infraction of the rules, and Grinnell triumphed 6-5. Immediately thereafter a Drake player fisted the referee, who was Wallace Lane, afterward a patent attorney in Chicago. The late George Graeser of Drake has since been charged with making the attack.

Taylor quotes Don Evans, Des Moines attorney, another player in the contest, but against Drake and for Grinnell, as recently talking with Judge Bliss reviewing that contest, and the slugging episode was mentioned. "I don't know why I did it," Judge Bliss said, "but I was the one who told Graeser to sock the referee. In the excitement, I shouted, 'Hit him,' and George did, apparently acting spontaneously with the suggestion."

Evans commented: "I always knew Graeser was supposed to have done it, but that's the first time I ever heard anyone admit it was he."

Iowa's Notable Dead . . .

EUGENE MANNHEIMER, rabbi and civic leader, died September 8, 1952, in his home at Des Moines, Iowa; born November 3, 1880, at Rochester, New York, son of Sigmund and Louise (Herschman) Mannheimer, German Jewish descendents; removed with parents to Cincinnati, Ohio, where he spent his boyhood and was educated in the public schools and Hebrew Union college, graduating as rabbi in 1902; received his B.A. degree in Cincinnati University, and assumed his first rabbinate the same year at Sioux City, Iowa; did post graduate work at Chicago University and Columbia University; came to Des Moines in 1905, as rabbi of Temple B'nai Jeshurun, retiring in 1947, since which time he has been rabbi emeritus; married Irma Schloss, of Des Moines, April 17, 1917; active in Red Cross, war loan and charities campaigns; instrumental in organizing the Federated Jewish Charities, now known as the Social Service of Des Moines, also the Jewish Settlement association, now the Jewish Community Center, and the United Jewish Philanthropies, now the Jewish Welfare fund; a member of National Conference of Christians and Jews, Foreign Policy committee of Des Moines and past president of the Iowa Conference of Social Work; a Rotarian, a thirty-third degree Mason and a member of the speaker's bureau of the Iowa Masonic Service committee; has served for a number of years as a member of the board of trustees of the School of Religion at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, and an active member of the board of the Bureau of Jewish Education; surviving besides his wife, are two sons, Robert E. of Des Moines, and Richard S. of Los Angeles, California, a brother, Leo Mannheimer, and a sister, Edna Manner, both of New York, N.Y.

ANTHONY MILROY MCCOLL, public official, legislator and lumber and grain dealer, died at his home in Woodward, Iowa, September 14, 1952; born at Caledonia, Livingston county, New York, May 19, 1858; the American-born parents, Hugh D. and Jane McColl, with their twin sons Anthony and Donald, came to Dallas county, Iowa, in 1876, located on a farm near Woodward, and engaged at that place in the lumber and grain business, Donald later establishing the same business at Perry, Iowa; elected in 1890 and served three terms as clerk of the Dallas county district court; married October 3, 1903 at Woodward to Bess C. Craft; served one term in the Iowa state senate and in 1913 re-elected to that position, sitting as

a member in the session that year, but resigned in June to accept appointment as a member of the state board of control, serving in that capacity by reappointment for 17 years, being its chairman several times; was instrumental in securing the location of the Woodward State Hospital and School at that place and active in all civic and municipal affairs, together with political movements in the county and state; served as a delegate from his county to every Republican state convention for a period of 72 years; a member of all branches of the Masonic order, the Elks, the Lions club, and a recent honor received was the naming of a local park and recreation center at Woodward as McColl park; for fifty years served as a trustee of the Thomas D. Gregg Fund, involving management of a substantial number of properties and other assets; survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Jean M. Milroy of Washington, D.C., who had been in the home with her parents during the father's last illness.

THOMAS JEFFERSON FITZPATRICK, botanist, educator, civil engineer and publisher, regarded as one of the most eminent botanical authorities of the midwest, died at Lincoln, Nebraska, March 28, 1952; born April 2, 1868, in Centerville, Iowa; acquired his advanced education at Wesleyan University, 1889, State University of Iowa 1889-95, B.Sc. 1893 and M.Sr. 1895, University of Chicago and University of Nebraska; held position of teacher and curator at University of Nebraska; experienced as a civil engineer and a publisher; was first head of Graceland college at Lamoni, Iowa, and member of the faculty there from 1895 until 1900, when he went to Iowa City, Iowa, to serve as superintendent of the public school system, remaining there until 1908, when he returned to Graceland college and rejoined the faculty, remaining until 1912, when he resigned and removed to California for a year, when he was called by the University of Nebraska; owner of the *Lamoni Chronicle* for a period while a resident there; also helped establish the local library, contributing a large number of books from his private collection which was extensive, once comprising over 30,000 volumes; a member of some thirty scientific and educational associations; was a prolific writer principally along botanical lines, also on engineering, history, and biography, some articles being published in the ANNALS, and one of his articles, "The Place-Names of Appanoose County, Iowa," being published in *American Speech*; also others of this series, published in the ANNALS, being "The Place-Names of Des Moines County, Iowa," "The Place-Names of Lee County, Iowa," and "The Place-Names of Van Buren County, Iowa;"

a portrait showing his sturdy appearance in his middle years gracing page 12, Vol. XVII, July, 1929, ANNALS OF IOWA.

PAUL NESBITT, lawyer, legislator, contractor and public official, died July 22, 1950, at Talihina, Oklahoma; born April 3, 1872, at Milford, Iowa; removed with parents to Nebraska, obtained a high school education and grew to manhood on the prairies of that state; graduated in 1894 from the Chicago Medical college with an M.D. degree and engaged in his profession for a time at Vinton, Iowa; practiced from 1895 to 1899 at El Dorado Springs, Missouri, and then removed to Watonga, Blaine county, Oklahoma, continuing in his profession, but in 1904 went to St. Louis, becoming a newspaper reporter, and later on the *Joplin Globe*; returned to Oklahoma to direct the press bureau for the Democrats in the constitutional convention campaign; active in Democrat political circles; served as secretary to Gov. C. N. Haskell, and on the night in 1910 when the capital of the state was removed from Guthrie to Oklahoma City, with a Mr. Anthony, bore the Great Seal of Oklahoma to the new capital, enabling the governor to legally transact business in the new location the next morning; represented Pittsburg county in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh sessions of the Oklahoma legislature, serving as speaker of the house for the Sixth session; appointed and served as state commissioner of highways during the administration of Gov. Jack Walton; removed to New Mexico in the 1920's and for a number of years engaged in the construction of highways for that state, establishing residence at Chama, and served for ten years there as postmaster; returned to Talihina, Oklahoma in the fall of 1944, remaining there until his demise; married Carrie May Lee in El Dorado Springs in 1896, and to this union were born five children, two of whom with their mother, survive: Robert L. Nesbitt, Bellingham, Washington, and Mrs. George D. Bradley, Clifton, Arizona, the widow making her home with the latter.

MAURICE G. RICKER, educator, explorer and photographer, died at Washington, D.C., September 9, 1952, after sustaining a fractured hip in a fall; born in Wataga, Illinois, in 1869; came to Iowa with his parents; following graduation in 1892 at Drake university, obtaining his A.B., traveled extensively with archaeological groups, then taught at Marshalltown and was high school principal at Burlington before coming to West high, Des Moines, in 1906, as an instructor and principal, a scientific bent eventually taking him out of school work in 1918, after experimenting here with high school electrical projects and photography; in May that year joined party of scien-

tists and embarked on a voyage to the British West Indies, including Barbados and Antigua, becoming official photographer for the party, and including a moving picture camera in his equipment; upon return removed to New York, taking a position with the Y.M.C.A., which handled "U.S.O.-type" activities during World War I, and traveling in Europe and South America to salvage "Y" equipment after the war; held various government positions, living in Washington, and from 1920 to 1926 was with the public health service as assistant director of educational work; the next three years was director of motion pictures for the interior department, and pioneered in the field of sound and color movies; after a tour of duty as engineer for the film division of United Research Corp., worked with the agricultural department from 1937 until his retirement in 1942; then in 1946 was called out of retirement to do a special job in films for the army; was a fellow of the Iowa and St. Louis academies and a member of the New York Electrical society and the National Press club; a daughter, Helen, wife of William Beebe, naturalist and deep-sea explorer, becoming widely known as an author and under the pen name of Elswyth Thane, writing "From This Day Forward," "The Young Mr. Disraeli," "The Tudor Wench," and among other novels "This Was Tomorrow," written against the background of European unrest and the rise of Nazi Germany; besides the daughter, who lives in New York City, surviving are his widow, Edith, and a sister, Mrs. Pearl Ricker Ellis of Kalistell, Montana.

FRED S. HIRD, U.S. marshal, war veteran and world champion rifle shot, died at Des Moines, Iowa, September 26, 1952; born at New Diggins, Wisconsin, in 1880; attended public schools and Bayless college at Dubuque, Iowa; as a young man was known for some time as a semi-professional baseball player, amateur boxer and wrestler; came to Des Moines in 1905 as manager of the Iowa state arsenal, camp grounds and target range at Camp Dodge; continued there until the Mexican border campaign, in which he served as captain and regimental ordnance officer of the Third Iowa infantry; first joining the Iowa national guard as a private in 1900; advanced to lieutenant colonel of ordnance on the staff of Maj. Gen. Mathew A. Tinley, Council Bluffs, commanding the 34th division; in the 1912 Olympic Rifle team, won the gold medal of honor as the world's most expert rifle shot, the king of Sweden decorating him with the Olympic wreath; also competed with this country's rifle team when the games were held at Antwerp, Belgium, in 1920; served two terms from 1928 to 1936

as United States marshal in the Southern district of Iowa, his law enforcement activities also including a year as special agent for the Iowa attorney general's office and three years as chief deputy sheriff for Polk county; a Des Moines resident since 1905, was a veteran of the Mexican border campaign of 1914-15, and of World Wars I and II; retired from active duty in July, 1943, because of age, with the rank of lieutenant colonel; mustered into federal service in 1941, served 29 months before retirement; a member of Pioneer Masonic lodge No. 89, Argonne post, American Legion; Voiture 71, 40 and 8, and of the 34th division organized veterans; survived by his wife, Mary E., three sons, Fred Hird, Jr., of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Theo. L. Hird of Victoria, Texas, and Wilber E. Hird of Fort Dodge, one sister, Mrs. Olive Leiser of Dubuque, and five grandchildren.

MERLIN HALL AYLESWORTH, lawyer, publisher and radio executive, died September 30, 1952, in New York, New York; born July 19, 1886, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; son of Barton Orville and Georgia (Shores) Aylesworth, the father at the age of 29 made president of Drake university, Des Moines, serving from 1889 to 1897; a student at Colorado Agricultural college, the University of Colorado, the University of Wisconsin, Columbia university, received his LL.B. degree of Denver university in 1908, and awarded a LL.D. degree by Drake university in 1932, then a member of its board of trustees; practiced law at Fort Collins, Colorado, 1908-14; served as chairman of the Colorado Public Utilities commission, 1914-18; executive vice-president Utah Power & Light Co., Salt Lake City, 1918-1919; managing director National Electric Light association, 1919-26; first president of National Broadcasting Co., 1926-36; vice-chairman of board of directors, 1936; president and chairman of the board of Radio-Keith Orpheum corporation, RKO Radio Pictures, Pathe News, Inc., director of Keith Albee Orpheum corporation, B. F. Keith corporation, until March 1, 1937; one of the key figures in development of Radio City in New York; member of Scripps-Howard Management, 1937-38; publisher *New York World-Telegram*, 1938-40; chairman of board of Radio City Music Hall 1934-35; executive consultant office of Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs 1941-45; chairman executive committee Ellington & Co., Inc., New York; member appeal board Selective Service, Sigma Chi and Christian church; married to Blanche Parrett, October 19, 1909, who also is deceased, leaving two children, Barton Jerome and Dorothy, who survive with second wife, Caroline Andrews McEnteer, to whom he was married July 1, 1945;

frequently visited Des Moines during career as president of the National Broadcasting Co. and trustee of Drake university.

FLORA DUNLAP, educator and social welfare worker, died at her home in Circleville, Ohio, August 26, 1952; in her early 70's; had retired nine years ago, left Des Moines for her girlhood home to spend her remaining years; suffered a fall in January, 1952, breaking a hip and since has been in precarious health; born in Pickaway county, Ohio, attended schools at Columbus and graduated from Cincinnati Wesleyan college; was a volunteer resident worker in Kingsley House Social settlement, Pittsburg, Penn., and Hull House, Chicago, before coming to Des Moines; in 1904 as resident director of the Roadside settlement house in south Des Moines; in 1909 became a charter member of the Public Health Nursing association and three years later became the first woman member of the Des Moines school board; from 1913 to 1916 was president of the Iowa Equal Suffrage association, actively campaigning for the right of women to vote; became the first president of the Iowa League of Women Voters, serving in 1919 and 1920; in 1917 and 1918 served as regional director of the girls division of the War Camp Community service — the USO program of World War I; active in the Iowa Federation of Women's clubs and served as its legislative chairman in 1913 session of the general assembly; became a member of the Polk county emergency relief committee in 1933, and head of the WPA's women's division; after 1937 served as a member of the Polk County Social Welfare board; also that year was a member of a "committee of five" to draft social welfare bills; a member of the Des Moines Community chest board of directors from 1932 to 1933, and a past president of the board; served as president of the Polk county Women's Democratic club in 1922 and again in 1940; survivors include two brothers, both of Williamsport, Ohio, and a nephew, John Dunlap, Jr.

KARL VER STEEG, geologist and educator, died at Wooster, Ohio, October 10, 1952; born at Pella, Iowa, March 10, 1891; son of Nicholas and Maggie VanderZyl Ver Steeg; was graduated from the Pella high school in 1908 and continued his education in Central college there, graduating in 1914; taught for several years in high schools at Pella, Preston, Minnesota, and Neenah, Wisconsin; volunteered for army service at Fort Riley, Kansas, but discharged early because of a heart condition; served as director of athletics in 1918 and 1919 for the Y.M.C.A. at Camp Dodge, Des Moines; resumed teaching in

1919 at the University of Idaho at Moscow, Idaho, then to the Wisconsin School of Mines and Technology at Platteville, Wisconsin, as head of the geology department, and in 1923 went to Wooster as a teacher in the department of geology of the College of Wooster, where he had continued since 1926 as head of the department; obtained his master's degree at Chicago university and his doctor's degree at Columbia university, New York, in 1930; married Helena Martha Erdman of Neenah, May 31, 1919, who survives him; author of many scientific research papers, and of a book, "The Wind and Water Gaps of the Northern Apalachian Mountain Range," a member of Sigma Xi, Fellow of Geological Society of America, Fellow of the Ohio Academy of Science of which he also was vice-president, member of the American Geophysical Union, the Association of American Geographers and the Division of Higher Education of the National Educational Association; in 1946 awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Science, by his alma mater, Central College of Pella.

JOSEPH KINSEY HOWARD, author and newspaper man, died at Choteau, Montana, his summer home, August 25, 1951; born at Oskaloosa, Iowa, February 23, 1906; son of Joseph and Josephine Kinsey Howard, formerly of What Cheer, Iowa, where his grandfather for years was the station agent for the Rock Island railroad; spent his childhood in western Canada where the father was a coal mine operator for a United States syndicate; removed with his mother to Great Falls, Montana, in 1919, and after graduating from Great Falls high school in 1923, immediately joined the staff of the *Great Falls Leader*; advanced to news editor in 1926, in which position he continued until 1944, aside from about a year as news broadcaster for the *Great Falls Tribune*; resigned to become research associate for the Montana Study, a project of the Rockefeller Foundation and the University of Montana, retiring two years later to devote full time to writing; author of "Montana: High, Wide and Handsome," a history of the state, his first book, which won critical acclaim, published in 1943 by Yale University Press, and went into eight editions in its first three years; in 1946 edited a large collection of Montana materials which were incorporated into a book, "Montana Margins: a State Anthology," also published by Yale Press; twice, in 1947 and 1948, the recipient of a fellowship by the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, much of his writing being done under these grants; left a manuscript since published under the title, "Strange Empire: a Narrative of the Great Northwest," the work representing a dream of his whole life, as since boyhood

he had been fascinated by the story of the Red river half-breeds; survived by his mother still residing in Great Falls.

JOHN WESLEY BALL, newspaperman and soldier, died October 23, 1952, in Washington, D.C.; born March 23, 1891, at Toledo, Iowa; a brother of Amos Ball, formerly chairman of the board of the Standard Oil Co., of Indiana; began his newspaper career in 1911 with the Chicago (Illinois) City News Bureau, later joined the Hearst papers, then the *Chicago Evening Post*, and for a time was advance man for John Philip Sousa's band; served overseas with the Rainbow division in World War I, as a first lieutenant and assistant adjutant of the 168th Iowa infantry regiment; upon return home became a reporter on the *Sioux City Tribune*, then commercial editor of the *Des Moines Capital* and later city editor, and news editor; resigned from position on the *Capital* in 1926 and entered the advertising profession, the firm in Des Moines being Battenfield & Ball; entered armed service as a captain in armored forces World War II, stationed in New Guinea, Australia and other points in the Pacific and rose to rank of major before being invalidated home in 1945; started a newspaper called *Guinea Gold* while in service in New Guinea; employed on the *Washington Post* following World War II, and since 1945 had been serving as its agricultural editor; author of a series of articles on the government's potato program, and another upon peacetime uses of atomic energy; survived by his widow, the former Dorothy Cohen, and two daughters — Cornelia Ball, a reporter on the *Washington Daily News*, and Mrs. N. R. Kean, wife of a Navy Officer in Apponaug, R.I.; other survivors being two brothers, Amos of Evanston, Ill., and George of Chicago, and three sisters, Mrs. Evelyn Woodhead and Elsie Ball of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Gladys Hanks of Willows, Calif.

FRANCIS ARGLE ELY, neuro-psychiatrist, died at Des Moines, Iowa, September 25, 1952; born at Beloit, Wisconsin, January 15, 1876; son of Benj. E. S. and Abbie A. (Moore) Ely; received his education in the public schools of Ottumwa, Iowa, his degree in medicine at the State University of Iowa in 1898; was the first full-time interne at the university hospital at Iowa City; took graduate work at Chicago, Illinois, New York City, Boston, Massachusetts, and Vienna, Austria; married Lulu Lester June 16, 1919, at Des Moines, who survives; served two years on the staff of the state mental hospital at Clarinda; was a professor of neurology at the former Drake university college of medicine at Des Moines, from 1908 to

1912; also a neuropsychiatric consultant at Broadlawns hospital at Des Moines from 1906 to 1925; was president of the Iowa Methodist hospital medical staff at Des Moines from 1940 to 1941 and was head of the hospital's neuropsychiatric division several years; a member of the Polk county, Iowa, and American Medical associations and served as president of the Polk County Medical society in 1907; also was a member of the Central Neuropsychiatric association, of the Iowa Society for Mental Hygiene, and a past president of the Des Moines Medical Library club and Prairie club; a frequent contributor to medical journals and was the author of a book, "Lights and Shadows in the Life of a Doctor," published last March.

HARRISON JOHN THORNTON, historian and lecturer, died at Iowa City, Iowa, September 22, 1952; born in Liverpool, England, July 8, 1894; son of Harrison and Isabella (Almond) Thornton, the father being a mining engineer; coming to the United States in 1914, and naturalized in 1923, was married September 12, 1928 to Nadine Hemmingson; held A.B. and A.M. degrees from Grinnell college, an A.M. degree from Harvard University, and his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago, and taught at all of these institutions; served with the Canadian army in France and Belgium in World War I, from May 1916 to May 1918, and had served as professor of history at the University of Iowa since 1929; a member of the American, Mississippi Valley and New York Historical associations, the South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska Historical societies, and the American Academy of Political and Social Science; a writer on historical topics, among his published books being "Theodore Roosevelt — Historian," "President and Others at Chataqua," "History of the Quaker Oats Company," and numerous articles; a book in process of publication is entitled: "Chataqua — Adventure in Popular Education," the product of ten years research and study on the subject; a 32nd degree Mason and survived by his wife and one daughter, Mrs. Tiger Andrews of New York, New York.

ALBERT J. SHAW, lawyer, legislator and public official, died October 10, 1952, at Fort Dodge, Iowa; born at Dayton, Wisconsin, in 1876, and moved with his parents, Prentice J. and Jennie (Marshall) Shaw, to Pocahontas county, Iowa, when a lad of seven years; received his early education in the schools at Plover and Rolfe; attended Cornell college and was graduated from Drake university, Des Moines, Iowa, receiving an LL.B. degree; practiced law a short time at Corwith, Iowa, and removed to Pocahontas in 1909; married in

1909 to Genevieve B. Murphy of Iowa City; served as county attorney of Pocahontas county from 1910 to 1920, and state senator from the fiftieth district from 1935 to 1947, being active in legislative circles and one of the authors of the Iowa homestead exemption law; engaged in the practice of law with his son, Frank, at Pocahontas, and in 1950 was appointed state industrial commissioner to fill a vacancy, serving in that capacity until time of demise; interested in and engaged in farming and dairying, a Republican and member of the Catholic church; survived by his wife, three sons, Frank and Albert of Pocahontas and Robert of Boone, two daughters, Mrs. Lawrence Flaherty and Mrs. George Shore of Pocahontas, two sisters and sixteen grandchildren.

GEORGE WILLIAM STIMPSON, author and newspaperman, died at Washington, D.C., September 27, 1952; born near Anamosa in Jones county, Iowa, November 3, 1896; son of John Adams and Anna (Specht) Stimpson; educated in Iowa rural schools, in Valparaiso university 1916-21, George Washington university law school 1922-23; served as a private in World War I and discharged in 1919; a reporter on the *Valparaiso* (Indiana) *Messenger* 1921-22, *Washington Herald* 1922, associate editor of *Pathfinder*, Washington, D.C., 1922-32; a free lance writer 1932-34; Washington correspondent of *Houston* (Texas) *Post* 1934-41, and various papers since; conducted a weekly radio feature on politics and science topics 1924-25; author of daily syndicated newspaper feature, "Information Roundup," 1938-48; member of standing committee of correspondents 77th congress; member board of directors National Press Building Corp., member and president, 1936-37 of National Press club, Washington, D.C.; author of various books, some included in list of best-sellers when published; unmarried and survived by his mother, Mrs. John Stimpson, and a brother, Tom Stimpson, both of Anamosa, Iowa, and a sister, Mrs. Gladys Bader, of Elmhurst, Illinois.

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND ARCHIVES

Claude R. Cook, Curator
Des Moines

An institution of the State of Iowa, located at the seat of government, established as a department of the State in 1892, and administered by a Curator elected by a Board of Trustees composed of the Governor of the State, a Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. It consists of the following divisions:

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The War History Division—Gold Star Iowans

The Portrait Gallery of Iowa, exhibiting oil portraits of the outstanding men and women who have contributed to Iowa culture, official life and progress.

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Publication: *ANNALS OF IOWA, a Magazine of History*

The Newspaper Division—Files of Iowa newspapers and periodicals from territorial days to the present

The Manuscript Collection including papers, addresses, documents and correspondence of eminent Iowans, supplying unrecorded chapters in state history

In the interest of preserving Iowa history, the Curator solicits the presentation, to the Manuscript Collection, of letters, diaries, family histories, and general manuscripts about Iowans and institutions in the area of which the state is a geographical part.

ANNALS OF IOWA

In the more than half a century the *ANNALS OF IOWA* has been published, it has been a repository for, and made available, a vast amount of valuable data on the history of the State otherwise not accessible. The securing of material, and editing and supervising its publication, is a part of the immediate task of carrying on the work of the Department in harmony with established traditions.

Bound files of the publication are preserved in countless libraries of the State, and may be consulted by those engaged in research and historical writing.

